

their Presbyteries. As was stated in the Home Mission Report presented to the last Assembly, it is evident that, unless the Mission work of the Church is to be seriously curtailed, the amounts placed at the disposal of the Committee, both for Home Missions and Augmentation must be considerably increased. Manitoba and the North-west, and British Columbia, will of necessity, as emigration flows in, require larger sums than in the past. This year the North-west (including Manitoba) received over \$30,000, and British Columbia nearly \$4,500. Next year British Columbia will require at least \$7,000, and the North-west a proportionate increase, if the Church is to maintain its hold, and supply destitute regions beyond our present missionary limits.

The continuous growth of our Church, and the success of all the other schemes, depend largely upon the ability of the Home Mission Committee, to prosecute its work with unabated energy. But for occasional bequests and donations, the contributions of the churches would not meet the expenditure. This ought not to be. The members and adherents of our congregations are well able to furnish the amounts required, and are, we believe, in most cases, prepared to do so cheerfully, if the fact are only clearly placed before them.

WM. COCHRANE, Convener H.M.C.
Brantford, Ont., Aug. 6th 1891.

The Census Returns.

The first instalment of the Dominion census for 1891 has been announced in Parliament and the press. The increase of population during the past decade is considerably less than was anticipated, being rather less than half a million. The greatest relative increase has been, as was to be expected, in the Western Provinces, and the smallest, in the Maritime Provinces, as appears from the following general statement:

	1881.	1891.	Incr'co
Nova Scotia.....	440,572	457,523	9,951
New Brunswick.....	321,233	321,994	61
Prince Edward Island.....	108,891	109,088	197
Quebec.....	1,369,027	1,488,586	129,559
Ontario.....	1,926,922	2,112,889	186,067
Manitoba.....	62,290	154,442	92,182
Assiniboia.....			
Alberta.....	25,615	61,487	35,972
Saskatchewan.....			
British Columbia.....	49,459	92,767	43,308
Unorganized.....	30,931	32,168	1,237
Total population....	4,324,810	4,823,344	498,534

The following is the population of cities with over 10,000 inhabitants:—

	1891.	1881.
Montreal.....	210,650	155,237
Toronto.....	181,200	96,196
Quebec.....	63,090	62,446
Hamilton.....	48,980	35,960
Ottawa.....	44,154	31,307
St. John.....	39,179	41,358
Halifax.....	38,556	30,100
London.....	31,977	26,266
Winnipeg.....	25,642	7,985
Kingston.....	19,264	14,091
Victoria, B.C.....	16,841	5,925
Vancouver.....	13,685	..
St. Henri.....	13,415	6,415
Brantford.....	12,753	9,616
Charlottetown.....	11,374	11,485
Hull.....	11,265	6,890
Guelph.....	10,539	9,890
St. Thomas.....	10,370	8,367
Windsor.....	10,322	6,561
Sherbrooke.....	10,110	7,227

Sketches from Palestine.

BY REV. THOMAS CUMMING, TRURO.

SAMARIA.

AT the commencement of the Christian era, Palestine west of the Jordan was divided into the three Provinces of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Samaria was the central province, and thus the central portion, of the Promised Land. In a preceding age it was the territory allotted by Joshua to the great tribe of Ephraim, and to one half of the tribe of Manasseh. It has been justly celebrated in all historic time for its great natural beauty and fertility. Moses in his farewell benediction of the tribes of Israel speaks of it in glowing terms: Deut. 33: 13-16. And after many centuries of successive disasters and imperfect tillage this ancient territory, more recently known as the region of Samaria, is still marvellously fertile and beautiful as described by the ancient oracle. I have already, in a previous brieflet, referred to the magnificent Plain of Mukhna and the charming Vale of Nablûs in the southern part of this fruitful region. And now, continuing our journey Northward from Shechem to the frontiers of Galilee, let me say that we have a succession of some of the most captivating pictures of natural scenery. The road, it must be said, is for the most part utterly neglected. In many places it is a mere tortuous, undulating, bridle-path which you would lose in a half an hour if left to your own re-