

Our Home Missions.

Augustine The Session was formally opened **College, Tex.** on the evening of Wednesday, 7th Nov. The induction of Rev. D. M. Gordon, who also gave the opening lecture, gave unusual interest to the occasion. There are forty-five students in attendance, more than in any previous year.

Queen's The Theological department of **Opening.** Queen's University was opened on the evening of Nov. 2, by a lecture from Rev. Dr. Watson. The total number of freshmen registered in Queen's for the present session are 94 in Arts; 35 in Medicine; 15 in Theology; 5 in Practical Science; and 20 extra mural.

Masham Is happy in its new church, opened 11th Sept. For twenty-three years services have been held in a small building, which in course of time became not only too small for the growing membership, but altogether unfit for use. With earnest work at home and kindly help from abroad, they have succeeded beyond expectation, and the pastor, Rev. Mr. St. Germain, and his thankful people, rejoiced on the day of opening in a church within forty dollars of complete freedom from debt.

Mormons in A year ago the Home Mission **the N. W.** Committee appointed Mr. A. McKenzie, missionary to the Mormons, at St. Mary's and Lees Creek, Calgary Pres., as well as to the other settlers in these places. He has succeeded in awakening a marked interest in those Christian families so long neglected. Churches are to be erected shortly at St. Mary's and Boundary Creek. Although the Mormons are slow in abandoning their religious beliefs, they have not manifested any decided unfriendliness to our mission. The missionary has so far been kindly treated. The constant stream of immigration from Utah is rapidly filling up the country, which promises soon to become one of the most prosperous settlements in Alberta.—*Quarterly Leaflet.*

Pincher Mr. Grant has been the missionary **Creek.** here for upwards of 5 years. The field is 50 miles in length and 30 in breadth, with Pincher Creek village as its chief point. Raising cattle or horses and mixed farming are the principal occupations. Mr. Grant ministers to 31 families, scattered over this wide area. A handsome church was erected in the village last year, costing \$2,300. The building is commodious, capable of seating 180 persons. It is all paid up except \$500. Owing to its vast extent, this field involves a great deal of travelling. A journey of two days is sometimes required to reach one parishioner. This district on the west, is adjacent to the first range of the Rockies.—*Quarterly Leaflet.*

The Synod of Met in Knox Ch., Winnipeg, on **Manitoba, &c.** the evening of Tuesday, 13 Nov. Rev. P. Wright, retiring Moderator, preached from that most fitting text for the opening of a church court, the parting words of Christ, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

There were present about fifty ministers and about half that number of elders, and after roll call, Rev. J. A. Carmichael of Brandon was chosen Moderator for the current year. Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to business, while the evening sessions were of a more popular character.

Among the matters considered were, the question of equalizing the expenses of members in attending Synod, the Summer session of Manitoba College, the legal tenure of church property within the bounds, Home Missions, Augmentation, Sabbath Observance, Systematic Beneficence, Church and Manse Building Fund, Statistics, State of Religion, &c.

Wednesday evening was devoted to Home Missions, Augmentation, and Sabbath Observance, and Thursday evening to Foreign Missions and Manitoba College.

In the Synod since the last readjustment there are nine presbyteries, — Superior, Winnipeg, Rock Lake, Glenboro, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Minnedosa, Melita, and Regina. There are 41 self-sustaining congregations, 19 others receiving aid from the Augmentation Fund, 11 Missions, many of them comprising several stations, and 11 Indian Missions. From this it will be seen that Home Missions, and matters more or less directly connected, was the subject of chief interest before the Synod. All these fields were supplied during summer, but many of them are vacant during the present winter for lack of men.

During the past year, west of Lake Superior, our home missionaries preached the Gospel in ten different languages, and our foreign missionaries, in four. The total gain in the Synod during the year is nine missions and 827 families.

Owing to drought in some places and floods in others, the Synods of Manitoba and the Territories and of B. C., have not been able to do as much for the Home Mission Fund as they would otherwise have done. Dr. Robertson told of one place where homes were swept away, and 14 families lived for a time in the church. Many raised no crops.

With all that is being done to overtake work in the North-West, Dr. Robertson told the Synod that there are 3,000 whites without pastoral oversight; spoke of a district where for 250 miles there is not a Protestant missionary. Mr. Rochester, in telling of his work at Prince Albert, spoke of a field eight miles by one hundred, worked by one missionary and two students. The harvest is great, the reapers few.

With regard to school matters in Manitoba and the Territories, the Synod, on motion of Rev. Principal King, affirmed its "satisfaction with the unsectarian school system instituted by the Government of Manitoba," and deprecated "any change which would forbid the use of the Scriptures at the opening or closing of the schools" — in the trustees so desire."