

MISSION SCHEMES REPORT.

The Moderator and Brethren of the Session, as directors of this fund, require me, as Secretary-Treasurer, to render an account of my stewardship during the past year. For some time it appeared as if this might be done in a very summary way, by a simple statement of the account. But the prospect has changed, and the work is increasing in extent and interest, and it is due to the Session as a Board, and it is due to the Congregation, who have, although in a humble way, sustained the fund in the past by your prayers and gifts; and it is due to the cause itself, that a careful, topical statement of the question should be submitted for your consideration. I pass over different other reasons which might be assigned as demanding a special notice of this work, to make grateful mention of the lady visitors, one of the most important factors, or rather the main factor in the working of this scheme; who, by their diligence and good deeds, have purchased for themselves a good report. While bearers of good news, the general news of the Church to the Congregation, as "daughters of the King," although not organized as the Society so called, they work in His name. They understand the significance of His precept, "beginning at Jerusalem;" "lending a hand" in case of sickness, or need, noting and reporting changes in, or removal of families, or the advent of strangers to their districts. Thus putting the pastor and elders in possession of useful information and stimulating them to more faithful service. And yet the work of these ladies is not without its cross, for while making their visits they are expected to receive without a murmur contributions which the willing-hearted of our people make a matter of conscience to offer them, but even here there is a relieving element, there are some who do not embarrass them in that way.

The contributions of this year compare favourably with that of previous years. They have graduated up from \$324.55 in 1883 to \$462.60 last year. The amount this year is \$565.60, or \$103.30 in excess of last year. This is progress in the right way, and encourages the hope that our people are rising to the importance of the great work of the Church, and may be relied on in the future for a faithful discharge of their obligations and interest in it.

Owing, perhaps, to the general disturbed state of business, the ordinary collections do not much exceed that of last year; but the grand total is attained by the munificence of a few, whose gifts would make welcome room for a special mention of their names in this report were I at liberty to do so. One sends his cheque for \$100; another for \$25; another for \$20. One pays \$18; a hard-working man, \$10; an anonymous friend, \$10, and another \$1.