

is hoped that by this time every elder of the Church has made himself acquainted with its contents. For the benefit of those who have not convenient access to this official source of information, we shall cull a few details which will give some idea of the work of the Church during the year 1883-84. The book is well printed, and carefully edited by the Clerks of Assembly. The minutes proper are compressed into 64 pages, leaving 270 for the reports of the conveners of the different Boards of the Church. These are full, and, for the most part, very encouraging and satisfactory. Where deficiencies are noticed, the fault lies not with the convener, but with those who have failed to furnish him with the information asked from them. On this account the report of the committee on statistics is confessedly incomplete. The number of ministers, including those retired, professors in colleges, and missionaries in foreign fields, according to the statistical returns, is 746; but, by actual count of the names of the ministers printed in the Assembly minutes we find the number to be 802. The number of pastoral charges is reported to be 826, but as many of these include two or more congregations, there are close on 1700 churches and stations where stated ordinances are maintained. Besides these there are 200 mission stations, or rather groups of stations, of which 13 are in the Presbytery of St. John, 17 in that of Barrie, and 53 in Manitoba and the North-West. These have been cared for during part of the year, at least, by 194 missionaries—the majority of whom are theological students and catechists, viz, 171 in the western section of the church, and 23 in the eastern. But these missionaries have had, on an average, three or four different preaching places, certainly not less than 600 in all. The number of communicants reported this year is 118,330 and of families 68,421. But these figures are probably far short of the actual number: for in the mission stations alone there are 11,765 families and 17,277 communicants. In respect of finances, we prefer to quote from the lists of acknowledgments printed from month to month in the *Record*, where we find that for the Assembly Fund there was received \$3298. For Home Missions, East and West, \$55,322, and for the Augmentation and Supplementary schemes,

East and West, \$26,906. For Foreign Missions, including the "Dayspring" and Mission Schools of the Eastern section, \$66,963. For French Evangelization, including the Pointe aux Trembles schools, \$30,209. For the support of Colleges and payment of Bursaries there was received \$34,307, not to speak of the large sums paid into the building and endowment funds of nearly all our colleges. Including legacies and donations, amounting to \$7051, the treasurers of our Widows' and Orphans' Funds received \$31,531. Their invested capital is \$276,610. For Aged and Infirm Ministers' Funds the amount received was nearly \$35,000—including the Macleod legacy (Halifax) of \$20,000. Our Sabbath schools contributed nearly \$16,000 for missionary purposes. These figures make a total for the schemes of the Church which we have named of \$283,536—about \$100,000 more than was reported to the convener on statistics, and there are a number of minor schemes not included in our estimate. Nor is there any account taken, so far as the Western section of the church is concerned, of revenues derived from invested funds. Were these taken into account, we should have to add at least \$50,000 to the receipts of the year. The rate of contribution for all church purposes according to the returns made was \$20.47 per family, and \$12.04 per communicant.

So much for the finances. But these figures represent an amount and a kind of work that cannot be estimated by arithmetical computation. The blessed Gospel has been preached in every corner of our land. The education of upwards of two hundred young men having the ministry in view has been going on. We have not been unmindful of our duty to the heathen world, having seventeen ordained missionaries in foreign countries and among the aborigines in the North-West. One hundred thousand young people have received religious instruction in our Sabbath schools and Bible classes from 10,000 teachers. Between four and five thousand elders have been assisting their ministers in pastoral work and in caring for the poor. A large number of communicants have been added to the Church. How many were brought to the knowledge of saving truth, the Searcher of hearts alone can tell. The committee on