

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

In reviewing and reporting their proceedings for the past year the Committee of the Home Mission Association have certainly great reason to be thankful for the measure of success which has already attended their exertions as an encouragement to future usefulness. Instituted as an auxiliary to the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to collect funds for the support of Missionaries in this Province, your Committee felt convinced that they had a very important duty assigned to them. For the last five or six years the expenditure of the parent church within the bounds of the Synod of Nova Scotia had increased to a very large amount, absorbing a very considerable proportion of their funds, and threatening, if diminished or withdrawn, to be attended with very serious consequences to many of our weak congregations. The time, it was believed, had now arrived, when it had become necessary to lend some assistance to the Colonial Committee, if at all practicable, when they were expending in the year 1857 more than £1300, and in the years 1858-9, more than £1000 sterling annually, upon our missions. Of this large sum £235 was expended within the bounds of the Presbytery of Halifax, in the year 1859, for the payment of salaries, besides travelling expenses.

In such circumstances your Committee felt it to be their duty to render immediate assistance to the Committee of the Parent Church according to their limited ability within the sphere of their influence. Missionary funds were collected and appropriated in aiding the salaries of the Ministers who had been appointed to supply the spiritual wants of our destitute brethren, and the resources of the Parent Church were partially and speedily relieved by your liberality. In examining the last abstract of the