

which is due unto his name. It is now *fifteen* years since the Home Mission of the Synod, according to the principles on which it is at present conducted, was first established; and while, from its commencement, there never have been wanting, from year to year, ample grounds on which to "bless God and to take courage" in going forward, as a Church, in the work of evangelization in regard to our country, at no former period, perhaps, in its history, has the Home branch of our Mission ever occupied a more important or interesting position,—whether as it regards the extent of the agency under its command, the means and opportunities of usefulness placed at its disposal, or "the wide and effectual door" which, in his providence, God seems to be opening up, for the more general diffusion throughout the land, by a purely spiritual instrumentality, of the truths of the gospel.

Before noticing some of the usual details which fall to be included in their Report, the Committee beg to submit the following general statement, presenting a summary view of the existing condition of the Home Mission, and of the more important results arising from its operations:—There are at present altogether 63 regular Home Missionary Congregations and Stations (besides sub-Stations) connected with the Synod. These congregations and Stations of a Missionary character, are scattered over the most destitute parts of Scotland, some of the border counties of England, the Orkney and Shetland Isles, and the northern and western Highlands. All of them are supplied with regularly ordained Ministers, or educated and licensed preachers, who, besides dispensing the word of life, and discharging other pastoral duties to those who wait upon their ministrations, take frequent opportunities of preaching the gospel in the more neglected districts around. About 15,000 of all classes, many of whom have been reclaimed from a state of ignorance and vice, depend on the Synod's Home Mission for religious instruction, and a supply of the ordinances of the gospel. Of these, 12,000 are ordinary hearers of the word, including 2,833 who are now members of the United Secession Church; and about 3,000 are young persons who attend Sabbath and bible classes, and are in the way of receiving a course of religious training and instruction which, by the blessing of God, is fit to make them wise unto salvation. Upwards of 2,000, connected with the Stations, give evidence of their piety and of their growing attachment to religious exercises, by their stated attendance on the public and social prayer meetings which have been instituted for their benefit. The whole of the expenses of the Home Missionary establishment connected with the Synod, amounted last year to upwards of £5,000. Of this sum, £2,550 were contributed by the Missionary Stations and Congregations themselves; and the rest by the Synod's Mission Fund, including the sums advanced for the special support of particular Stations, and for city missionary operations, by different Congregations belonging to the body. The sum raised for Secession Missions last year, both Home and Foreign, was £6,500. The