

REPORT
OF THE
HOME MISSION COMMITTEE
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.
(WESTERN SECTION.)
FOR 1888-89.

The Home Mission Committee, in presenting the annual record of their labours in this important department of Church work, desire to acknowledge the goodness of God in the large measure of success that has attended their labours, and the support they continue to receive from many of the members and congregations of the Church. The financial statement, as will be seen, again shows a deficit in both Funds. Had the Committee granted all the applications made from necessitous fields, the deficit would have been greater. They regret that seeming lack of interest and small contributions from many wealthy churches, prevent them going forward as they desire in the prosecution of a scheme so largely blessed in bygone years.

The health of the Missionaries has been good, and they have been enabled to enter many districts, preaching and administering ordinances, where no Missionary has ever been before. What the Church owes to her noble band of Home Missionaries in far distant fields, who labour under great difficulties, and suffer at times severe privation, cannot be understood. The mere record of their names and the stations occupied, and the miles traversed in going between, but feebly tells the story of their lives.

In the North-West and British Columbia our work goes on prosperously, and its more rapid extension is urgently demanded, in view of the large increase of population that emigration from the Old World to the New is making month after month.

In addition to the regular Mission work, the Crofter settlements in the North-West, and the Icelandic Missions in Winnipeg and other places, have engaged the attention of the Committee, and received aid as far as the funds permitted.

In the Report submitted there will be found notes of the progress of Home Missions and Augmentation, in the different Presbyteries of the Church, certain changes recommended by the Committee, and a detailed statement of the state of both Funds. The reports of the Students' Missionary Societies and the Lumbermen's Mission are also presented, in a condensed form. In the appendix, complete statistics of all the Mission stations and augmented congregations are given, and the names of all the Missionaries, Probationers and Catechists employed under the direction of the Committee.

SUMMARY OF MISSION AND AUGMENTATION WORK.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

Missions.

There are few changes to report in the Missions of the Presbytery. All our fields have been regularly supplied throughout the year, with the exception of Massawippi and Richby, which were supplied during the summer and during the Christmas vacation. Valcartier has been supplied for several years by a student Missionary. This field suffers from the poorness of the soil, and more especially from the indifference to religious services that prevails, owing, in many cases, to mixed marriages and neglect of attendance at the House of God. An ordained Missionary is needed here in the interests of the people, and of our Church. Kennebec Road has enjoyed a term of refreshing. The Missionary reports an increase of the membership, and appreciation of the Gospel, by the people of this region. The influx of summer visitors to Metis benefits the field financially, but withdraws many of the people from the means of grace during the summer. There is great need here, as elsewhere, of a spiritual awakening.

Sawyerille made no real progress during the year. The partial failure of the crops, and the troubles in connection with the Hereford Railway, hurt the Mission financially. The prospects of