

and as the matter respecting their claim to the lands has not been settled by any competent authority, we further submit that it is the duty of the Dominion Government, whose wards the Indians are, to have the question finally decided without further delay.

IV.—THE FRENCH WORK.

The event of the Quadrennium in connection with the French work has been the erection and occupation of an Educational Institute at Cote St. Antoine, adjoining the western limits of the city of Montreal. After careful examination of a number of different localities, the place referred to was selected, a good site obtained, and a building erected capable of accommodating pupils of both sexes to the number of one hundred, including rooms for the principal and teachers, recitation rooms for the daily exercises of the school, and a commodious and attractive chapel. In the important work of the Institute we have the co-operation of the Woman's Missionary Society, which shares with us the working expenses, and pays interest on \$10,000 of the cost of the building. The opening of this Institute has been hailed with satisfaction, not only by those engaged in the French work, but by all who are interested in the evangelization of our French fellow-countrymen. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to show what can be accomplished, but the Board entertain strong hopes that the new departure in connection with the French work will prove its providential origin by the results which follow. On evangelistic lines there is nothing new to report. The various missionaries are doing their best to sow the seed of Divine truth among the people, cheered by the assurance that "in due season" they "shall reap if" they "faint not." Colporteurs, also, have been diligently at work in a number of localities, and by the circulation of the Scriptures and religious literature are preparing the way of the Lord.

V.—THE CHINESE WORK.

The indications which led the Board to begin work among the Chinese in British Columbia seemed to be of a marked providential kind, and the history of the work has been in harmony with its providential beginning. Since the mission was begun, five years ago, there has been steady growth, and the membership now aggregates 112. A comfortable but inexpensive mission building has been erected in Vancouver, where the work is in charge of a native missionary, and at Victoria a building will be erected this autumn, which will give permanence to the mission and enable the missionary to work to better advantage. In Victoria there is also a Rescue Home for Chinese girls, which is carried on by the Woman's Missionary Society, with good results. Night schools are in operation at Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster, and a beginning has been made among the Chinese at Kamloops. It is hoped that from among these strangers from the "land of Sinim" some will be raised up to carry the Gospel to their native land.

VI.—FORMATION OF NEW MISSIONS.

While the creation of our Domestic Missions rests,

as already stated, with the Annual Conferences, custom, which in time comes to have the force of unwritten law, has relegated authority in the matter of the Foreign, French, Indian, and Chinese work, to the General Board. As these departments are supported almost entirely by the Mission Fund, it seems reasonable that, so far as extension of the work is concerned, they should be under the control of some Board or Committee in which all the Annual Conferences are represented. By tacit consent the General Board has been entrusted with this duty, and all new missions, in the departments referred to, have been formed by its authority. Hitherto the weighty responsibilities involved have been discharged with all the care and prudence the Board could command; but in view of the large sums annually expended, the growing importance of the work in these various departments, the urgent and persistent requests for extension, especially in the Indian and Foreign fields, and the consequent danger of friction in regard to authority, it seems desirable that some general regulation should be adopted which will definitely locate the authority by which new missions are to be formed. In several cases steps have been taken by Annual Conferences which may ultimately involve the Missionary Fund in heavy outlay, to the detriment of other parts of the work, and we suggest the propriety of putting this whole question out of the region of dispute.

VII.—THE "MISSIONARY OUTLOOK."

This useful publication is holding on the even tenor of its way, spreading missionary information among the people, and helping to keep them in living sympathy with the work of the Society. Owing to the reduction in price and the supply of ministers without charge (both by order of last General Conference), the publication does not quite pay its way; but the balance sheet is steadily improving, and a moderate increase of the paying circulation would make the income equal to the expenditure. It might be well, at this juncture, to consider the propriety of enlarging the *Outlook*, with a view of giving greater variety of information, and making it still more efficient as an advocate of mission work.

NUMERICAL STATEMENT.

1886.

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Missions.	Number of Missionaries.	Native Assistants.	Teachers.	Interpreters.	Total Paid Agents.	Members.
Domestic . . . . .	421	434	..	..	..	434	43160
Indian . . . . .	38	37	17	25	11	90	4037
French . . . . .	12	11	..	3	..	14	405
Foreign—Japan . . . . .	11	*16	15	6	..	37	591
Chinese . . . . .	1	1	..	4	..	5	13
	483	499	32	38	11	580	48206

\*Of the sixteen missionaries in Japan, nine are native ministers, and three of the foreign missionaries teach in our College.