

are now five charges vacant, which formerly enjoyed a stated ministry, viz., Second Congregation, Toronto,—Markham,—Whitby,—Brock and Reach,—Caledon and Erin. These are all anxious to obtain Pastors. Some of them are now taking steps for obtaining settled ministers, and some, especially the Second Congregation, Toronto, have for some time been anxiously seeking to obtain a Pastor to watch for their souls. Besides these Congregations at present vacant, there are also congregations ready for settlement at Boston and Milton,—Mono and Caledon East,—St. Vincent and Euphrasia, and we might perhaps add Nottawasaga and Sunnidale. The following stations are also important and require missionary labour, viz.:—Collingwood which is fast becoming a town of importance, from its relation to the traffic of Lake Huron and the far west by the Northern Railroad,—Artesia, Medente, Fios and Oro, Reesor's Corners, Markham, and Weston and Lambton. During the winter most of the places, except some of the more remote, were supplied by the Students of Knox's College. There are now labouring, within the bounds of the Presbytery, ten missionaries. No settlements have taken place in the course of the year, but several congregations are at present taking steps to call ministers.

6. *Presbytery of Hamilton.*—In this Presbytery several settlements have taken place since last Synod, viz., Mr. Burns at St. Catherine's, Mr. Gillespie, at Blenheim, Mr. McLean, at East Puslinch, Mr. McIndoe, at Wellington Square and Watford, Mr. Middleton, at Eora, and Mr. Craigie, at Port Dover and Simcoe. Notwithstanding this large addition to the number of settled ministers, there are still three organized congregations destitute of a settled ministry, viz., Dumville, Berlin and Woolwich, and Doon and New Hope, besides fifteen other stations requiring supply, at most of which there are large congregations, and many may be regarded as ripe for settlement. These stations are the following, viz.:—Alansville, Walpole, Wellesley, Maryborough, Jarvis, D. by, Sullivan, West Puslinch, Mount Forest, Durham, Bentinck, Glendel, Garafraxa, Normanby, and Grimsby. A large proportion of these stations would be self-sustaining under the charge of diligent and efficient labourers. At the meeting of the Home Mission Committee, eleven missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery.

*Presbytery of London.*—Within the bounds of this extensive Presbytery, there have been three settlements since last meeting of Synod, by Rev. N. Bethune at Thamesford, Rev. Mr. Fergusson at Lobo, and Rev. Mr. Gauld at Moore. One of these, the Rev. N. Bethune has since been translated, as we have good ground to hope, to the church above, leaving a sorrowing congregation, and a bereaved partner. There are at present four vacant congregations, viz., Thamesford, St. Thomas, Fingal, and Plympton. Besides these, there are at least 27 congregations and stations requiring supply, seventeen of them being fully organized, viz., Tibbury, Ridgetown, Wallace-town, Chalmers' Church, Yarmouth, Dorchester, Westminster, Port Burwell, Beachville, Bosanquet, Dunwich, St. Mary's, Mitchell, Wawanosh, Huron and Ashfield, Kincaidine, and Bruce, the ten, which are not fully organized but many of them large and important, are the following: Windsor, Mersea, Wallaceburgh, Wardville, Komoka, and South Carrodoc, East Zorra, Enniskillen, Norrington, Clinton, Grey and Morris. Nine missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery, a number not fully adequate for overtaking the work, but still affording more ample supply than has ever been afforded before.

We have thus gone over the various Presbyteries

of the Church, and from the short sketch which has been given, it will be seen, that there are at present 56 organized congregations, and 33 stations, many of them, however, ready for organization and settlement, while there are but 16 Preachers and ten students ready for license.

Your Committee have pleasure in being able to state that, throughout the church generally, deeper interest is felt in the Home Missions of the Church, than was felt and manifested at one time. In all the Presbyteries the supply of destitute congregations and stations is looked upon as a duty of primary importance. Almost every minister gives some portion of his time to this work, and so far as we know this is not grudged by the various congregations. In the present scarcity of labourers, much might be done, and much is done by the systematic efforts of members of the several Presbyteries. Missionary meetings are held throughout most of the congregations. In some quarters these have as yet been only partially successful; but, it is believed their beneficial influence is very generally acknowledged.

Your Committee will not occupy the time of the Synod with many suggestions; but would leave the matter in the hand of the Synod. There are, however, two or three things, to which reference may be made in a few words.

1. The Committee would put in view of the Synod, to recommend strongly to the several Presbyteries to use all diligence in looking after the new stations, organizing them as soon as possible, and ordaining Elders where it is practicable. In some cases loss has been sustained by a want of timely attention to these things. Indeed, in the larger Presbyteries, it is a question whether a general or travelling Missionary might not be advantageously employed in visiting stations, organizing and dispensing the sealing ordinances.

2. The Committee would suggest to the desirableness of the Synod soon giving its attention to the rearrangement of the bounds of Presbyteries.

3. The Committee would suggest to the Synod, the propriety of recommending to Presbyteries to raise the allowance hitherto given to students employed as missionaries. Hitherto the allowance has been £25 with board during the summer vacation. The Committee agree in thinking that £30 would be now little enough for the students. The Committee also would suggest to the Synod to recommend to Presbyteries to transact with congregations on the one hand, and with Missionaries on the other, so as to save them from any loss, and from being placed in an awkward, and unpleasant position.

4. The Committee, adverting to the circumstance that at the meetings of committee some of the more distant Presbyteries are scarcely ever represented, would suggest that Presbyteries should consider it their duty to defray, out of their Home Mission Fund, or otherwise, the expenses of those whom they may depute to appear for them at the meeting of the Committee, so that every Presbytery may be represented.

5. The Committee recommend that, while correspondence should still be kept up with the view of obtaining Preachers from the parent churches, attention should specially be given to the seeking out of young men for our own College, which must be regarded as essentially connected with the right cultivation of our Home Mission Field. With God's blessing, in this institution, and with his blessing on the labors of his servants throughout the church, may we not look for the time, when the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad, and when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose!

W. REID, *Convener.*