

through the NAME which is above every name. They have come from the New Hebrides, from Central India, from the North West, from Trinidad, and from beautiful Formosa. This year we had at the Assembly Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie, and Miss Blackadder, missionaries whose narratives never fail to instruct and interest.

Scarcely second in interest to the Foreign Report is the Home Mission Report. By all means read it, and note how the church has revived and how her pioneers are at work in hundreds of the most destitute places in this vast Dominion. The work is immense, and the constant exercise of vigilance, self-sacrifice, and true Christian courage is urgently required. The Home Mission enterprise has shared in the revival of interest in Foreign Missions.

Do not forget to turn over the reports of our colleges, and to note what is done to train men for the work of the ministry. What owest *thou* to the College? "What College?" That of which you are a graduate.

The French Evangelization report is not a line too long. It is terse, full of facts, and clear as a mountain brook. Pray for our French Evangelization work! It is a powerful spiritual agency, and it is a boon to the whole country, even from a social and political point of view.

But the portion of the Blue Book, of all others, that will give you most food for thought, is the table of statistics, with its 92 pages of facts and figures. You can here examine yourself and your neighbor, and see how every congregation from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island is discharging its duty. Our returns are tolerably accurate, but not quite so. It is not too much to say that thousands of our families are still unreported and unconnected with any congregation. It is these families that are sought out and shepherded by our Home Missionary pioneers. There has been steady growth for the last fourteen years. It will not be amiss to state again the proof of this: In 1875-6, our income was \$982,672. This year our income is \$1,730,252. If we include benevolent purposes, the total is raised to \$1,773,114. Obviously the returns are still imperfect as regards the amount given for "benevolence." There is no item in the tables more full of

promise than the \$24,000 raised for missions by the Woman's F. M. Societies.

We hope the reader will study with care the table on page 10 of the statistical report, giving the average contributions per family and communicant in the different Presbyteries. For stipend the average ranges from \$18 per family in British Columbia, to \$3.28 in Victoria and Richmond—the general average being \$8.64. Per communicant the range is from \$3.19 in Owen Sound to \$14.91 in Calgary. The Presbytery giving least per family to the schemes of the church, is that of Regina; the Presbytery giving most is Toronto. But taking all purposes, Regina is in advance of two other Presbyteries. Columbia leads "for all purposes," giving \$48.60 per family. Toronto comes next with \$44.14, and Calgary comes third, with \$40 per family. Taking the rate per communicant, the new Presbytery of Calgary actually leads the whole church, its contributions being at the rate of \$41.80. Columbia comes next with \$36.16, and Newfoundland comes third with \$26.12. Certainly we have no right to complain of the liberality of our most distant and isolated Presbyteries.

The average liberality of our people in all parts of the church is gradually rising. Our families gave, on an average, 37 cents each more for the schemes of the church, than in the previous year; and our communicants gave an increase of 15 cents each for the same objects. For all purposes our families gave each an average of \$22—an increase of 82 cents on the previous year, and our communicants each gave \$11.23, an increase of 67 cents each. We trust that every student of the "Blue Book" of 1888, will do what he can to ensure that next year's issue shall be a record of steady and rapid advance. We need not refer to the importance of the reports on the State of Religion, on Sabbath Observance, Sabbath Schools and Temperance. These subjects are intimately connected with the life and work of the church.

The Church is under obligations to the ministers and elders who, year by year, give their time and energy to the work of the General Assembly. Some of our ministers and elders have attended every year since the Union, at heavy personal