

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE
HOME MISSIONARY CONVENTION EAST.

The Board's work during the past year has been more than usually interesting and encouraging. He who gave the commission under which we serve has made good the promise to be with the messenger of the good tidings of grace. On several fields there has been not only the sowing of the good seed, but also the gathering in of the rich harvest. In some fields the reaper has followed close on the heels of the sower. The words of our Saviour at the well of Jacob might fittingly have been employed: "Say ye not, there are four months, and then cometh harvest; lift up your eyes, behold, the fields are white already to harvest."

Among the means employed of God to give stimulus to the work, we give a prominent place to the visitation of the General Superintendent of the Western Convention. Mr. Grant spent about six weeks last winter among the churches of our Convention. The usually cold and stormy winter made his tour one of not a few difficulties and discomforts. But he had on such a head of steam that nothing could resist his onward course. His visit brought cheer to many of the missionaries, and gave new impetus to their efforts. His wonderful facility in acquainting himself with the various sections of the whole field made his suggestions at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of great value. All were made to feel the pulsation of a reinvigorated missionary spirit. Plans were laid (and have been carried out), to employ student labor for the summer more largely than ever before. And this work has been found in nearly every case eminently satisfactory.

SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC WORK

has formed a somewhat prominent feature in our operations during the year. Though Mr. John Curry was not in the direct employ of the Board, yet, through the kindness of brethren in Montreal he rendered valuable assistance to many of our missionaries on their fields. His visits to Cornwall, Lachute, Kingsey Falls, Sherbrooke, etc., were attended with much interest and blessing. A brother who has always taken a deep interest in the work in the Ottawa Valley placed at the disposal of the Board means sufficient to sustain Mr. A. J. Vining, student, in the prosecution of evangelistic work during the summer months. His work has been much blessed, and will be referred to elsewhere more fully. We desire to emphasize the great importance of work along this line. The work of the evangelist must be brought more to the front. Imperious peripatetics, who bear the name "evangelist," may be more of a curse than a blessing, but the true evangelist fills a larger place in the divine plan of Christian work than we are giving him in our missionary operations.