

June 1888

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REPORT  
OF THE  
HOME MISSION COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
**Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
(WESTERN SECTION).

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The Home Mission Committee, in presenting their Annual Report to the General Assembly, record their gratitude to the Great King and Head of the Church, for the large measure of success that has attended their labours during the year. In every department the work has been prosecuted with commendable diligence on the part of our Missionaries. Many new fields have been occupied in the remote Provinces of the Dominion, while in the older mission stations are advancing to the status of regularly organized congregations, and augmented congregations are becoming self-sustaining.

The Committee have still to report a lack of funds. The Home Mission fund closes the year with a deficit of \$939.89. That the deficit is not greater, has been accomplished by very special efforts throughout the Church, which have increased the number of special donations, far in advance of former years. But for this, the fund, so far as the regular contributions of congregations are concerned would again have been entirely inadequate to meet its obligations. The Reserve Fund has been drawn upon to the extent of \$1,000. The Augmentation Fund, in spite of the hopes indulged in, that the contributions would at least meet the year's expenditure, also shows an indebtedness of \$1,486.27.

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.

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SUMMARY OF MISSION AND AUGMENTATION WORK.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

*Missions.*

Mission work in Quebec is carried on under great discouragements, and the hardships of some of our missionaries are not surpassed in Foreign Mission work. The Presbytery has to contend with a dominant Church, which overshadows our work almost everywhere. The poverty of many of our people, the departure of many families for new lands, the presence of the French, the wide area over which the families nominally ours are scattered, and educational problems, all make mission work extremely difficult. Mission effort in this Province is holding the fort, with the hope that better days are yet in store for us. What is needed is men and means, and the hearty sympathy of the Church at large. Every Presbyterian mission is a means of blessing, both directly and indirectly. Notwithstanding obstacles, seven mission stations were supplied during the summer—four by Students, and two by ordained Missionaries. During the winter services were maintained in three stations regularly, in two fortnightly, and in two occasionally.

The work of the year has been encouraging in some fields, and rather disheartening in others. Metis reports a church almost free of debt, costing \$2,500, and an organ costing \$300, all complete within the last five years. The same report says, "I have little fears for the future of our cause here." Sawyerville is a new field, and prospects here are hopeful. Massawippi and Richby is not so encouraging as it was a few years ago. Many families have left, and the field is cut up into many divisions by Baptists, Adventists, Universalists, Methodists, Episcopalians, etc. Valcartier is not advancing much. Many families also have left here. Mixed marriages prove a hindrance, and the poverty of the soil does not hold out the hope of our cause ever being very strong in this place. Yet these people must be cared for. Kennebec Road, worked by an ordained missionary, reports little change. Here the people are poor, and the men are mostly engaged in lumbering during the winter. The Gaelic settlements in Megantic and Compton, are in great need of good missionaries. From the above brief statement it is evident that in the Presbytery of Quebec there are