

# THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

SEPTEMBER, 1862.

## APPEAL OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

The undersigned, in the name and by the appointment of the Board of Home Missions, beg leave to appeal shortly to the people of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, for funds to carry on the domestic Missions of the Church. They are persuaded that all that is really necessary, is to shew that there is a *work to be done* in supplying the destitute portions of our country, and *agents to do it*; that this work must be prosecuted in places where the labourers cannot receive any adequate remuneration from the sparse or untrained population who enjoy their services, that the duty of the Board is to see that our Home Missionaries are employed and paid on the terms (certainly not extravagant) appointed by the Synod, and when their funds are exhausted, to inform the Church and ask for more.

This is what the Board has now directed to be done. The Report of operations for the year past has been submitted to, and approved by Synod, and is published in the present No. of the *Record*. By the payments made since the meeting of Synod, our funds are exhausted, save a portion of a bequest of £200 from the late W. Matheson, Esq., the application of which is restricted to one department of the work under the charge of the Board, viz., the payment of Probationers; and even if not so restricted, this sum should not be lavishly expended within two years from the date of its reception; and unless our funds are replenished, either the work must be suspended or the Missionaries subjected to treatment, which must ere long issue in their entire withdrawal from the Home Mission field.

There are three departments in the work of Home Evangelization, calling for funds and requiring the exercise of enlightened liberality on the part of our people. 1st. We have 10 agents for the supply of vacant congregations and Mission stations. These consist of three Ordained Missionaries, six Probationers, and one Gaelic speaking Theological Student. 2ndly. We have eight Gaelic Catechists, giving a portion of their time and receiving a small remuneration, the whole band not exceeding above £50 per annum.— 3rdly. We have fourteen congregations, which on the recommendation of the different Presbyteries, or by the direction of Synod, receive aid varying from £10 to £50, the average being about £15 or £20.

The Ordained Missionaries and Probationers are occupied in furnishing a supply of preaching to 25 different settlements, of which from five to seven only can be regarded as *self sustaining* congregations. The remaining 18 or 20 consist of Mission stations and congregations which require aid.— There are at least 15 of these which draw from the funds of the Board, with the approval of the local Presbytery, a portion of the payment of every days supply received.