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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Our Home Missions.....	201	Home Missions.....	215
In Rome—Arch of Titus, &c.....	202	Home Mission Hymn.....	215
Missionary Cabinet—J. Hudson Taylor.....	204	Laura Bridgeman.....	215
Household Words.....	206	Manitoba Items.....	216
Presbyterianism in Newfoundland.....	207	General Assembly (Continued).....	217
Home Missions in the North-West.....	208	Presbyterianism in Jamaica.....	221
Our Honan Mission—Rev. J. F. Smith.....	210	The Missionary Outlook.....	222
International Sunday-School Lessons.....	211	Report on Record.....	224
Ecclesiastical News.....	213	Literature.....	224
Our Own Church.....	214	Page for the Young.....	225

Our Home Missions.

THE HOME MISSION FIELDS of the Presbyterian Church in Canada—stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, nearly 5000 miles—are in many respects the grandest that any church was ever privileged to occupy. The Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick cover a much larger area than Great Britain and Ireland. The Province of Quebec is as large as France. Ontario is larger than Spain. Manitoba equals Holland in size. British Columbia is not less than Austria; while the North-west Territories are capable of containing as large a population as Russia in Europe. Apart from its size, the Dominion of Canada is remarkable for its unrivalled system of inland navigation, for its gigantic railways, its agricultural capabilities, its mineral wealth, the untold value of its forests and fisheries, and, what is still more important, for the healthfulness of its climate. The steady flow of immigration, the opening up of vast tracts of fertile lands, long supposed to be a barren wilderness, and the rapid development of manufacturing industries, all point to the great future that awaits this country, and place the grave responsibility on the present generation of laying securely and wisely the foundations of the nation that is to be.

In this light we regard the reports of our Home Mission Committees laid before the last General Assembly as very important documents. We dare not boast of what has been done in the face of the faithful exposure of "insufficiency" in some departments of the work, yet, on the whole, we ought to "thank God and take courage." The committees on whom have devolved the administration of the funds and the direction of this great work, certainly deserve the best thanks of the church, and the generous support of all the congregations. We can only name the heads of departments, who necessarily assume the chief responsibility in connection with the work:—Dr. Cochrane of Brantford, and Dr. Warden of Montreal, Convener and Secretary of the Home Mission Committee, West; Rev. J. MacMillan and Rev. P. M. Morrison of Halifax, in like manner, East; Rev. D. J. Macdonnell of Toronto, convener of the committee on augmentation of stipends in weak charges, West, and Rev. E. A. McCurdy, East; Dr. James Robertson, Rev. Allan Finlay and Mr. Grierson, Superintendents of missions in Manitoba and the North-west, in Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, and in the Presbytery of St. John, respectively.

In the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, the more important missions are in Newfoundland and Labrador, Cape Breton, and the Presbytery of St. John, N.B. Seventy-