

6, In Presbytery of Kingston, there are three vacant congregations, viz: 1, Pictou, 2, Trenton and Corsecon, 3, Demorestville; and besides these the mission stations of Ballinahinch and Storrington.

6, In Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, there are 6 organised congregations vacant, viz: 1, Ramsay; 2, Beckwith and Goulburn; 3, Cumberland and Lochaber, 4, Renfrew; 5, White-Lake and Burnstown; 6, Osgoode. There are also two mission stations, viz: Merrickville and Westmeath.

7, In Presbytery of Montreal, there are ten vacant congregations and missions, viz: 1, Kenyon; 2, Martintown; 3, Winchester; 4, Laguerre; 5, Finch; 6, Richmond; 7, Osnabruk; 8, Valleyfield; 9, Harrington; 10, Lingwick. In a large proportion of these, perhaps, we might say a majority, gaelic would be indispensable.

For the supply of these vacant Congregations and Stations, the following missionaries and catechists are at present employed, viz:—Presbytery of London, 9; Hamilton, 7; Toronto, 10; Cobourg, 1; Kingston, 1; Brockville & Ottawa, 3; Montreal, 6.

The supply of missionaries from the old country during the past year has been very limited, viz, from Scotland, Mr. Park, Probationer, and Messrs. Crow, and McKerracher, Students; and from Ireland, Mr. McMeohan. Mr. White, now settled at Belleville, also came from Ireland through New Brunswick. Mr. Shaw and Mr. White have also come with Presbyterial and other certificates, the former from Ireland, and the other more immediately from England. Mr. McKenzie, who laboured in Montreal in connexion with the Cote Street Church, is also officiating at present in the bounds of the Presbytery of Toronto. We trust that from time to time accessions to our staff of our labours may be received from the churches on the other side of the Atlantic. But it is evident that it is mainly to our own young men, that we must look for our future missionaries and ministers. This consideration should lead Presbyteries and Sessions, as well as individual ministers and office-bearers to be more and more diligent in looking out and encouraging young men as candidates for the ministry.

In the report of last year, the following clause occurs:—

“Another question which may require ere long to be considered, is the question as to the claims which Probationers, once in the service of the Home Mission Committee have on its continued employment. In other words, is the Home Mission Committee, or the Presbyteries of Church bound to give appointment to all who are received as Probationers of this Church? And if there is any obligation, how long does it continue? It is right to state to the Synod that no case has occurred as yet, where this question has become necessary. But it is a question which may, in our circumstances, force itself upon our consideration.”

What was then hinted at as a possibility has become an actual question. At a meeting of the Home Committee in April last, there were four Probationers to whom no appointments were given, from the simple circumstance that

o Presbytery would undertake to provide employment for them. This may have been felt as a grievance by the parties alluded to, in regard to whose moral character and standing as Probationers, it is but right to say, that not the slightest objection was alleged, and it becomes now the duty of the Synod to lay down some regulation for the guidance of the Home Mission Committee.

In regard to Buxton Mission a special report will be presented by Mr. King, on the state of the Buxton Mission. It was remitted to a sub-committee to report as to the financial position of Buxton Mission, and the amount of pecu-

nary responsibility that should be assumed by the Synod. The substance of the report of this committee is, that in the present state of things the Synod should pay Mr. King's salary, as missionary; and \$300 towards the salary of Mr. Thomson, Teacher, his salary being (including allowance for house,) \$530. The state of the buildings also required attention. The appointment of a Committee consisting of Messrs. Scott, Doak, Straith, Clark and McKellar, Mr. Scott Convener, to act with Mr. King in carrying out the object of the mission, is recommended.

Red River.—At the last meeting of the Home Mission a sub-committee was appointed to look out for a Minister to visit the Red River for the double purpose of encouraging our excellent brother there, and gaining information as to the state of the aborigines, and the practicability of Missionary operations among them. On the report of this sub-committee, the Home Missionary Committee are now prepared to recommend the appointment of the Rev. Mr. MacTavish.

The Committee would, in conclusion, bring before the Synod, the fact that in addition to the sum already mentioned as being paid by the Executors of the late Mr. Thomson, of Beverley, for the Bursary Fund, and in terms of his will, a like sum (\$1014) has been paid for the missions of the Church. Mr. Thomson's will does not specify any particular object, but his representatives have stated, that in his lifetime he felt special interest in the Buxton Mission. No specific application has of course been made of the funds. But the Committee would take the liberty of stating to the Synod, that the Buxton Mission, at present, needs assistance, and they would consider the application of at least a considerable portion of the sum referred to, to this object, as legitimate and proper.

Submitted in name of Committee, by

W. REID, Convener.

REPORT ON MISSION TO NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.

The Committee appointed on the subject of a mission to the North American Indians, have to report, after due enquiry, that, according to the information they have obtained, this mission field may be divided into two sections: the one extending from Lakes Huron and Superior to Hudson's Bay, and comprising within its limits the large part of the widely scattered settlements of the Chippeway tribes. The other reaching from Lake Superior to Vancouver's Island. This latter field presents three distinct points, in any one of which a mission might be commenced with advantage. The first, in the valley of the Red River, where the work might be begun among a section of the Chippeways, and in co-operation with the congregation of the Rev. J. Black. The second in the valley of the Saskatchewan among the Blackfeet. The third in Vancouver's Island, among the tribes found there, in connection with Presbyterian population already settled there, and soon likely to be largely increased.

The Committee with their necessarily imperfect information, feel great difficulty in deciding which field should be first occupied, (though some of the members, for obvious reasons, give a preference to Vancouver's Island,) and they agree to recommend that the Synod send some suitable minister to the Red River, in order to consult and advise with Mr. Black and others, about this matter, and that on his return, the Foreign Mission Committee, or a Committee appointed for the object, be authorized to take such steps as they may deem necessary to the establishment of such a mission.

JOHN MAC TAVISH,
Convener.

Column for the Young.

THE STONE IN THE CHILD'S GARDEN.

Once a pretty little girl got a small piece of ground to make a garden. It lay close by a pond of water-flowers, and rock-work for plants, that do not require much earth. It was full of wild weeds, among which stood a tall fox-glove, and a sweet-smelling lilac. But the ground was very rough—the soil was very hard—and she thought that she would never get done. When she began, it looked like only a few hour's work, and yet this was the third morning of her labor—why? There was a great stone under the soil, and the little hoe and spade struck upon it. Do what she would, the bare stone was always coming through, and marring all her work. What will she do? The stone is too large for her to remove, and without its removal, she cannot make her garden. She at last asks the gardener to help her, and with his iron pick he sets cruelly to work—Down he struck, deep into the soil, the ground shook, and the split rock gave way, the roots and shallow earth were cast into the air, her nice flowers were scattered about, and her garden, as she thought, altogether spoiled. But when the stone was out, the old kind gardener replaced the earth, and helped to smooth down the ground, to make the bed, and to plant the roots, and to put in the flowers. And he promised her more plants, and to help her to keep her garden. It was astonishing how soon the little plot was made nice and smooth under the skilful hand of the old gardener.

And my young readers God has given every one of you a little garden to dress and keep. It is a very wild and rough spot, full of rank weeds, and with an ugly stone right in its centre. That plot is your own heart, and it is as hard for you to be good, as for that little girl to turn her plot into a garden, as long as the ugly stone remained in it. And as she needed a strong and skilful man to remove it, so you need the great gardener of the heart, Christ Jesus, to make you good. He says, and what he promises, he always fulfils. “I will take the stony heart out of your flesh.” Did your heart ever give you as much trouble as this little girl had with her garden? Have you ever prayed, that God would take the stony heart out of your flesh? Most people's hearts give them but little trouble. They take some trouble to get the good opinion of others, by trying to live as well as possible. But they do not like to look down into the deep well of the heart, and find out the depths of sin, that are found here.

Some young people, however, take great pains to keep their hearts. They find it a very hard thing, and every time they try it, they are enabled to seek help from the blessed Jesus. They find the heart so bad, that they take it straight to Christ, saying

“Turn and look upon me, Lord
“And break this heart of stone.”

And Jesus alone,—the strong man armed, is never at a loss for means and ways to do all he promises. He has a hammer for breaking in pieces the stone in the heart, and a pick-axe for taking out the broken pieces. He has love to do all this, and power to remove every difficulty. He can so break up sin in the heart, that it will never be strong again. He can, like the old gardener to the little girl, give help to the weakest and smallest little child. He can bring and plant in the renewed heart, the sweet fruits of the Spirit, drop in the seeds of grace, and then come down as the dew, to keep them always fruitful, and ever green and lovely.—Altered from *Children's Missionary Record of Free Church*.