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Toronto, July 29, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Dr. Warden's statement of the estimated requirements of the Church for the current year merits the thoughtful consideration of the brethren. It is the annual forecast of the ecclesiastical chancellor of the exchequer. As such it should receive the attention of every minister and member who seeks to bring an intelligent mind to the work of the Church. Behind the Funds, are the schemes, the machinery for carrying out the schemes, and the wide field with its supply and demand, its provision and needs.

In his remarks on the estimates the Western Agent says that "to enable the Committee on Home Missions to keep pace with the growth of population and to open up new fields, as well as to furnish regular supply during the whole year, the full amount given in the estimate (\$80,000) will be required." Very concisely is the vast Home Mission field here sketched, and yet how comprehensive? The Committee is expected to keep abreast with the growth of the population, to be on the alert so that no corner of the vineyard is neglected, and to be ready with supply whenever wanted. To a novice this may seem simple and easy, but the difficulties are many and the work enormous. A few figures will illustrate: The entire Home field numbers 364 fields or centres, with 12,472 families and 3,861 single persons, who raised last year \$72,834, for church purposes and received from the Fund only \$56,746

It is justly pointed out with gratitude and satisfaction that Augmentation Scheme, now administered by a separate Committee, has had during the past sufficient support to enable that committee to meet all demands, that is, to pay all the grants in full. The necessity of keeping up this record ought to be clear to all. Augmentation or a sustentation fund for weak congregations means very much to the church. Last year 140 congregations with 6,558 families were assisted so as to enable them to give \$700 or \$750 to each of their minister. For this purpose the congregations gave \$77,294, and received from the Fund, \$20,517. In addition these congregations were contributors to schemes of the church to the amount of \$6,363, to that extent, therefore, aiding the church in maintaining her general work.

The Foreign Mission Fund begins the year with a Foreign debt of \$9,685 67. The amount required this, year we are told, "is \$77,694, fully \$5,634 in excess of the amount received from the congregations, etc., last year, notwithstanding the very special effort then made. While the amount required for the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society is stated in the preceding page, it is to be borne in mind that this is entirely distinct from the amount required by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society raise their money chiefly by means of the Auxiliaries and Missions Band connected with the Society."

The two Branches of this work, are to be clearly kept before us. The W.F.M.S. raises money distinctively for womens' work—or work among the women and children. Even though a missionary's wife should, as Mrs. Goforth does! devote herself to the work of the missionary—no part of the missionary's salary is paid by the W.F.M.S.—and should a lady missionary marry a missionary—her salary ceases and his increases, but his salary is paid by the General Fund. Hence it will be seen that a congregation with a vigorous W.F.M.S. may, if resting on the womens' work actually do nothing or next to nothing for Foreign Mission work of a general kind. This is one reason why the Foreign Mission found themselves last year unable to meet their engagements. We plead for a more earnest recognition of its claims. Shall we recede from the ground taken up? Where will you begin to curtail? What open door will you close?

With respect to the Colleges Dr. Warden draws attention to the following facts: "Since the abolition of the Common Fund in 1888, congregations contribute to one or more of the Colleges as they think well. The amount required for each of the Colleges is given. It is earnestly hoped that every congregation in the Church will contribute for theological education, and that the full amount required may be got. It will be observed that the estimate for Queen's College is very greatly in excess of preceding years, because of the deficit from