

The S. S. Helps of our Church, which this year are published from the "Record" Office, are to be issued from the beginning of 1899 in Toronto. A committee has been appointed to select a managing editor. The circulation of the different Helps, Teacher's 'Monthly, Quarterlies, and Leaflets, has increased from 60,000 in 1897, to 75,000 in 1898.

Very dark, on the under side, was the cloud that shadowed the Assembly in the sudden death of one of its members, just before the opening of the evening session on Friday, the third day of meeting. Five young men had gone out for a bicycle run, and were returning, when one of them, Rev. Robert J. Grant, of River John N. S., fell from his wheel in front of an electric car which was coming behind him, and was instantly killed. One sad comfort to sorrowing friends was that there was no time for suffering. The change was instantaneous, a translation.

All that could be done by the Assembly was done. The remains embalmed and prepared for their journey home, were brought to the Church on Monday afternoon, a solemn funeral service was held and in long procession the members followed the hearse to the railway station, while in kindly sympathy the bells of the Anglican Church near tolled a mournful requiem.

Sad was it to the Assembly, sadder far to parents and friends at home, but to the departed one a blessed change to life immortal.

A few days later, word came to Assembly of the sudden death from heart failure, of Rev. Neil Mackay, D. D. of Chatham, N. B. Two ministers, both in active service, called away by death during the sittings of the Assembly, a thing unprecedented in its history. What a call to "work while the day lasts."

From ocean to ocean reaches our vast Home Mission Field, and this year has seen an extension to the far North West, the land of gold and ice, the Yukon, where four good men and true have been sent to win the hardy gold seekers to that which is better than gold.

The Home Mission Work of our Church is under the care of two committees, East and West, the division being historic, the former, the Maritime Synod; the latter, the remaining five Synods of the Church.

In the East forty-nine Churches were supplied during the year with ordained missionaries, and fifty-nine stations by student catechists in the mission fields.

A happy feature of the report was that while the year began with a debt of \$1,597, it closed with a balance of twelve dollars in hand. One cause of this cheering fact is that the mission stations themselves have given more largely and have required less from the Home Mission Fund. The total expenditure for the Home Missions, East, for the year,

was \$12,635. Besides its own work, the Maritime Synod gave \$2,390 during the year for work in the North West, for the sake of its boys on mountain and prairie far away.

After a brief pointed summary of fields and work in the different Presbyteries, the report is brightened by the following fit and beautiful words:—

"These details, if read systematically, are eloquent. They tell of men and women, hungry for the bread of life, fed by our agents, who unobtrusively moved out and in among them, and loved them with a brother's affection,—of noble sacrifices, quietly made for the cause of Christ and His Church—of hearty, cheerful giving to the support of the Gospel in our land by our better-off congregations. They show also that our Church in its old Eastern section is progressing steadily, if slowly, and that to Home Mission work its growth is attributable.

About four thousand families are embraced in the fields in which our missionaries labor, that look to us for the preaching of the Gospel. They contribute to the support of the missionaries about sixteen thousand dollars, and give to the Schemes of the Church with increasing liberality. In proportion to their means, and the labor expended on them, their giving does not compare unfavorably with that of the average self-supporting congregation. They therefore appeal to the Church for aid in securing the means of grace, not as beggars, but as brethren on the same level of proportionate giving, and as members of one and the same great family in Christ. Surely the strong cannot refuse an appeal, at once so rational and touching.

The magnitude of the Home Mission Field of the West is equalled only by the rapid expansion of the work. Its length from Quebec to Dawson City is some five thousand miles. It contains 368 Mission Fields, with 1,120 preaching stations; employs over 400 missionaries, students, and catechists, and its expenditure during the year was, in round numbers, \$100,000.

What a power, making for righteousness, in this our new land, is that army of home missionaries! What a benediction to the eleven hundred mission stations, to have the Gospel with all its blessed influences, regularly preached in their midst! What a splendid investment, for the good of those who come after us, making a better country for them to live in, is that hundred thousand dollars!

A pleasant interlude was the visit of a delegation from the Methodist Conference, Revs. Dr. Burwash and Principal Shaw. There were addresses and response from the substance of which it would be difficult to know "who's who." Like two sisters, teaching in neighboring schools, the two denominations differ in personality and given name, and perhaps slightly in method, but their family name, their sympathies, their aims, their hopes,