

Home Missions. The receipts of the Home Mission Fund, Western Section, were, on the first of March, about three thousand dollars less than at the corresponding period of last year. Besides this, there are two special features to be noticed. (1) Last year there would have been a larger balance on the wrong side, but for a special bequest of twenty thousand dollars, and, as there is not the likelihood of such help being received this year, the Fund will be, by so much, in a worse position. (2) In consequence of the summer session in the Manitoba College, and the larger expenditure, in consequence of having the Manitoba students in the mission field, all winter, the claims to be met will be heavier than last year. Let us seek to make the state of the Fund a call to more earnest effort. It is not loss; it is not unwise management; it is the Lord's work pressing to be done, and demanding that we "do what we can," and we are far from that standard yet.

A. and I. Rev. Wm. Burns, who is laboring in **M. Fund.** the interests of the Endowment Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, West, should have the warm support and encouragement of all. There are aged men in our Church who have spent their strength for the Church, and in her frontier work have received but scanty support, and who now in old age are largely dependent upon this Fund from which none of them receive at present more than two hundred dollars a year. Common justice demands that those who have thus given their lives to the work should be provided for by those who are reaping the benefits of their toil, in the peace, safety and prosperity of our country, which is in so large a measure the result of that toil.

TEMPERANCE WORK IN THE CHURCH.

⁶⁶THE letter on this subject in the January 68 "RECORD" has borne much good fruit in the way of enquiries about, and extension of, the work. It is already evident that the plan of work approved and recommended by the last General Assembly is meeting a felt want.

In view of some of the enquiries made it appears that a few further explanations will be helpful.

It is not necessary that any Sabbath school or Christian Endeavor Society should wait for action of the Session before beginning the work. Of course it will greatly help the work and encourage those engaged in it if their Session will show an active interest in it by taking the initiative, and stimulating others. But there is nothing to hinder any Sabbath school from beginning work at once. All that is necessary is to appoint a committee on temperance, consisting of some of the teachers and scholars, in any number to suit the circumstances of the school. It shall be the object of such committee, as fully as possible,

"to interest the school in temperance work; to give prominence to the quarterly temperance lesson; to secure the signature of every member of the school to the pledge; to have the temperance exercise furnished by the Assembly's committee used occasionally in the school, to organize and conduct, where advisable, a "Presbyterian Children's Temperance Band," and at the close of each year to report to the Session the state of the work under its care.

A simple constitution is provided for general guidance, but details are left to the judgment of each committee, which can work in the way that seems best suited, in its case, to attain the objects for which it exists.

The Constitution of the Christian Endeavor Society provides for the appointment of a Committee on Temperance. Where such committee is appointed all that is required is to get pledge cards and pledge books, interest the society in temperance work and get signatures to the pledge. All we do is to give work to this committee. Such applications as the following have been received. "I have been appointed Convener of our Society's Committee on Temperance, and I want you to send me samples of your pledge books and cards," or, "I enclose you \$—— for which please send me —— pledge cards and —— pledge books. Our Society has appointed a Committee on Temperance, of which I am chairman, and we are anxious to do some temperance work," etc. Applications for samples and supplies come from S. S. superintendents, as well as from ministers. Samples will be sent you to any address, on application to the undersigned. Pledge books are supplied at *five cents each*, stiff pledge cards at *forty cents per 100*, and gummed pledge cards *tl. , cents per 100*. Constitutions and S. S. Exercises supplied free.

Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor Committees are not confined to the young or even to members of the S. S. or C. E. S. in getting signatures to the pledge. In some cases quite old people have, for some members of such committees, signed the pledge for the first time; but it is particularly among the young that the work is to be done.

And what a hopeful work it is! It is hard to reclaim the fallen and influence the old, but it is comparatively easy to train up children in the principles and practice of total abstinence. O that every S. S. teacher and every C. E. worker could be fully aroused to the importance of this work!

"I may seem to many too simple and somewhat trifling. Simple it is, and purposely so, but trifling it can never be. Look at S. School and C. E. Societies of our church to-day. Who can estimate the mighty influence for good if every scholar, teacher and member of them was pledged to total abstinence?

Let it be so, and in less than a generation this drink curse, that so hinders the progress of our church and country, may be swept from our land. Let there be earnest united effort. Let our plan of work be adopted in every congregation, by the S. S. or S. C. E., or the woman, or where there is room, by all, and let it be pushed with enthusiasm. "Work, for the night is coming."

D. STILES FRASER.

Upper Steviacke, N. S., 1st March, 1893.