

Home Missions.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS, 1868.

In laying their annual statement on the Synod's table, the Board would first give a simple outline of facts, explanatory of the number and employments of our Home Evangelists, and of their work, and will next crave a few minutes of the time of Synod, in remarking on the importance of this department of the work of the church.

The Board have held, during the year, nineteen meetings, all being required for the transaction of business, in distributing and hearing reports from the different classes of agents employed, and in attending to their remuneration.

OUR PREACHERS.

The first and the main class of agents employed by the Synod in Home Evangelization, consists of preachers of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The most of these are probationers licensed within a few years, but with a sprinkling of ordained ministers, who, being for the time without charge, serve the Lord and His church by itinerating. At the commencement of our Synodical year, we had eleven preachers on our list, but not so many at our disposal. The eleven were, Rev. Messrs. McDougall and John D. Murray, Messrs. James Sinclair, Simon Fraser, J. K. Bearisto, J. W. Nelson, Oliphant Christie, A. R. Garvie, Howard Archibald, Mr. Jas. D. Murray, and Mr. Stephen Lawson.

Mr. Sinclair first, and Mr. James D. Murray not long afterwards, were settled in congregations. Three retired on furlough for relaxation by travel or rest—Rev. J. D. Murray and Messrs. Bearisto and Garvie, —while Mr. Christie continued an invalid, declining in strength; and so our working corps in the autumn of last season was materially reduced. We have to record with grateful hearts, the manifestations of grace and mercy on the part of Him who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, holding the stars in his right hand, both in the revival of those declining and in the bringing forward of others, so

that our spiritual firmament has not been left in darkness.

Two of the preachers whose services were withdrawn for some months, Mr. Murray and Mr. Garvie are now settled pastors, and members of this Synod, after having given the winter months to the mission field, and the third, Mr. Bearisto, has been restored in great measure. It should be also noticed that Mr. McDougall was, at the commencement of the year, raised from fever, and, in fact, from the point of death, to receive and to accept a call from the congregation of Cow Bay.

CALLED HOME.

While the tokens of His care over the church were thus displayed in the restoration of several of her ministers, it pleased Him, in His sovereign wisdom, to call to Himself one of the most promising of our young men, Mr. Oliphant Christie, who, after a short and most acceptable probation, chiefly in Bermuda, was called to his rest. He longed to work for Jesus, but bowed to the divine will, and his thankfulness for the privilege of preaching Christ to sinners, even for one season, his submission, his peace and happiness in anticipation of death, call on all his fellow students, and on all of us to whom this grace is given, to prize more highly the glorious privilege of preaching Christ, and to work faithfully and earnestly while it is day.

ACCESSIONS.

Our accessions within the year consist of Mr. Hogg, who returned in September from travel in Europe; Mr. Logan, who gave aid during winter chiefly in the supply of Poplar Grove, and who gave himself, without reserve, to the work from the 1st of May; Rev. E. McNab, who having resigned his connection with the congregation of Yarmouth, has gone, by special invitation, for not less than six months to supply Mahone Bay, a section of Rev. Mr. Duff's congregation, likely soon to form a distinct charge; Messrs. Robert Cumming and Samuel Archibald, who have returned from Princeton, as licentiate of the Presbytery of New Brunswick in New Jersey, and Mr. Edward Archibald, also returned after a year's absence in Canada. These, with