

eighty-seven Congregations received supplement to enable them to sustain a settled ministry, to the amount in all of \$9,714.29.

Again, in the Eastern Section, the Home Mission Committee supplied twenty-six vacant Congregations and 105 Mission Stations throughout the bounds of the several Presbyteries, while the Supplementing Fund assisted forty-six Congregations to retain settled pastors. There is thus much real work being done, quietly and with little romance thrown around it, but it is good work, and the results are worth all the labour and means expended.

As to the condition and requirements of the Fund, let us say a few words. In the West there is a debt of \$11,000, and there is needed for the work of the present year \$35,000—in all \$46,000. In the East, where the debt is \$2,400, the amount required for the present year is \$11,000—in all \$13,400. Let it be observed that the debt, both in the West and in the East has been incurred simply in consequence of the rapid expansion of the work. The Committees might have avoided debt, but this would have been done by rejecting urgent applications for help, by consigning many of our brethren to silent Sabbaths, by removing candlesticks from their places in many dark parts of the land. They felt, in many instances, that they dared not do this, and hence assistance was granted, even at the expense of incurring debt. The grants have been cut down to the utmost, and the estimates for the year have been made with all regard to economy in the administration of the means that may be put into the hands of the Committees. The amount raised last year was, in all, including congregational and Sabbath school contributions, donations, bequests and grants from other churches about \$30,000, in the western section, and \$9550 in the eastern section. To clear off the existing debt and provide for the demands of the year, we require at least fifty per cent. more than was raised last year. But surely this should be accomplished with comparative ease. Were every congregation in the Church to take up this matter in the spirit of the churches of Macedonia—if there were a "willing mind" in all the members of our Church, the amount required would be easily obtained.

The truth is, in the Western Section, the contribution of even 58c. from each communicant, and in the East 46c. from each communicant, would produce what is needed. Surely this can be accomplished. Comparatively few are unable to give the average just named, while it is confidently hoped that very many whom the Lord hath blessed with increased means will feel called upon to give as the Lord hath prospered them. It is only recently that, in the pages of our "Record," attention was called to some very liberal contributions for Foreign Missions. Shall we not have to

record some such noble gifts for our Home Mission? We trust there will be some; at all events, let all give according to their ability—as God hath prospered them; let none withhold their contribution; let no congregation stand aloof in this work. After several years of depression there are signs of returning prosperity. God hath blessed us with a most bountiful harvest. There is not only abundance for man and for beast, but a large surplus to dispose of to those who need such supplies as we can part with. "Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase."

The General Assembly has rejoined that an opportunity be given to every individual to contribute, by subscription, or in any other way that the Session or Deacons' Court may consider best. We do not desire to dictate or to interfere with the judgment of the Sessions or Deacons' Courts of the Church, but we would press the importance of adopting some systematic method of collecting the free-will offerings of the Christian people for missionary objects, so that there may be something beyond a mere collection on a Sabbath day. It is recommended, too, that the important matter of Home Missions be brought before Sabbath-schools and Bible-classes, and that they have an opportunity of giving at least a portion of their contributions to this object.

We earnestly and affectionately appeal to you, dear brethren, in behalf of this important object. We appeal to you as true patriots, sincere lovers of your country. We know, on the best authority, that it is righteousness alone which exalteth a nation, and how can we more effectually promote this righteousness than by spreading a pure gospel throughout the land? We appeal to you as loyal members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We seek not to hinder the growth and prosperity of other Churches. We rejoice to hear of their progress. But we love our own Church—the church of our fathers—and we desire that those who have been nurtured within her pale shall not be compelled to sever their connection with her, and seek ordinances elsewhere. We appeal to you as God's stewards, who are entrusted for a time with the use of a portion of His goods, and who must render an account to Him of the use or abuse of the substance now in your hands. We appeal to you as professed followers of the Lord Jesus, redeemed by His blood, consecrated to His service, members of His kingdom now, and fellow-heirs of the heavenly inheritance. You are not your own, but His. Seek then to glorify Him with your bodies and your spirits, with all that you are, and with all that you have. May His love constrain you to live not unto yourselves, but unto Him who loved you and gave Himself for you. May the Lord by His Spirit open your hearts, and dispose you to