

Sunday schools and bible classes under the missionaries' care. In every important item the year's advance has been most marked, and calls for devout gratitude to Him who giveth the increase.

#### THE WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT.

The growth of interest in this department has been more decided in all helpful particulars than ever before. Fourteen State Societies and hundreds of county, town, church and neighborhood organizations now concentrate the intelligent interest and make effective the zeal of the women in our churches. Besides the usual family supplies, amounting this year to \$57,000, the contributions to the Treasury by women, individual and associated, including legacies from women, have been materially increased. While a portion of these gifts has been specially designated by the donors for the salaries of teachers and objects directly appealing to womanly sympathies, there is shown a growing readiness to contribute for the general purposes of the society, thus helping the committee promptly to redeem their pledges to the missionaries. Much help has been rendered, also, by women in increasing the circulation of the society's leaflets, and of *The Home Missionary*, in which several pages are set apart monthly for matters pertinent to woman's work for home missions.

For this year, as before, the Woman's Home Missionary Association (Boston) has paid the entire salary of a lady teacher in Worcester Academy, and has generously signified its purpose to continue this essential aid.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The reported number of new Sunday schools gathered by the missionaries and specially watched over by them is 296. The entire present number of schools, so far as reported, is 2,097, with a membership of about 120,000—an increase of 12 schools and 2,000 scholars within the year.

For many years there was maintained between the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in many mission fields of the States a union scheme, the wolf lay down with the lamb with the usual results, the lamb got inside the wolf, and added much to the wolf's health and value. Over three hundred Congregational churches became Presbyterian. This for many years paralyzed Congregational effort, but of late its old fire has returned, and we see the results in the foregoing summary.

THE *Christian Guardian* speaking of the late conferences and the growth of the Methodist Churches in Canada says: "In view of the unprecedented accessions of the previous year many persons thought if the growth of the year just ended should be found to equal the losses occasioned by death, removals, and probable dismissions; or in other words, if the net increase to the membership of the Church for the two years taken together should amount to 20,000, there would be much cause for thankfulness. We are happy to state, however, that not only has this result been realized, but the past year shows a large and gratifying increase. At this writing the Eastern Conferences—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland Conferences—are not closed, and we are therefore not prepared to state the results of the year's work with them; but in all the Western Conferences, except Manitoba, from which we have not received statistics, there have been gracious visitations of the divine Spirit, and on many circuits many extensive revivals have prevailed. The net increase in the membership of these conferences is stated as follows:—Toronto, 2,318; London, 1,077; Niagara, 2,031; Guelph, 1,905; Bay of Quinte, 1,388; Montreal, 1,368—a total net increase in these six Conferences of nearly 10,000." An increase to the numerical strength of nearly twenty per cent. On the other hand the Wesleyan Church in England is enquiring into the reasons of its stationary, even declining membership.

IN the late General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada Dr. Torrance, the Convener of the Statistical Committee, submitted a very full and elaborate report, which was received with much gratification. Communicants on the roll (reported) 127,611, an increase of 4,167 over the previous year. Number of Presbyteries, 39; pastoral charges, reported, 773. There are 113 vacant charges, 748 ministers on the roll, 68 within the bounds whose names are not on the roll. Stipend paid shows an increase of \$24,902 on last year. The amount raised for church building is much smaller this year than on several previous years. This explains the fact that though there has been progress in the great schemes of the Church, the sum total of contributions for all purposes is a little short of last year.