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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS for 1852-3.

In presenting their Thirteenth Annual Report, the Board have much pleasure in stating, that the elapsed year has been marked by gratifying progress, and increasing interest in the Home Missionary operations of the Church.

This improvement is traceable to a variety of causes. The Synod's scheme of Presbyterial visitation, by securing, generally, greater efficiency in Congregational arrangements, has conducted materially to this result. Local prosperity, to a greater or less extent, has been promoted, and views of responsibility, beyond local bounds, have been awakened, producing their anticipated effects; and confirming the correctness of the remark, that purely congregational objects, pursued upon scriptural principles, so far from withdrawing attention from general interests, have had quite the opposite tendency.

The activity displayed by other Christian Churches has not been without its influence, more particularly, when taken in connection with the means of Gospel extension afforded by the success of the Synod's Seminary.—The progress of that Institution has been watched with deep interest, and, while its prosperity, so far exceeding the anticipations of the most sanguine, has indicated the ap-

probation of the Head of the Church, and consequently the wisdom of the plan itself, it has excited, very extensively, throughout the Church, a conviction of duty, not merely to provide an efficient and well trained ministry, but to contribute to its maintenance, when provided.

Besides this, the Board would observe, that views of Christian obligation, in general, are becoming more widely diffused, and are sustained by sounder principles; or perhaps, as particularly applicable to Home Missionary effort, the duty of the strong to aid the weak seems to enter, more extensively, as a recognised element, into calculations of Christian activity and usefulness. These, with other causes, have led to that increase of interest, and that improvement in the funds of the Board, which constitute such pleasing features in the experience of the elapsed year.

Whatever may be the state of vital godliness throughout the Body, outward manifestations of Christian energy are, every year, becoming more decided, general, and satisfactory. In extending the gospel, as in individual religious progress, there is *here* no spot, where the Church can rest and say, *the work is done*. High attainments, or great advancement is but an inducement to more, and diligence, and while the spirit of interest is abroad, and is taking a scriptural direction, it lies with these whom the Holy