

the edification of his people. For the progress thus made within the year, this Church has abundant cause to be thankful to her great guiding Head, by whose blessing this success has been attained.

The second department of our Home Mission work consists in providing preaching, catechetical instruction, and so far as practicable, church organization and the administration of divine ordinances to smaller or larger groups of worshippers, all over the land who may not be so numerous or so supplied with pecuniary resources, as to be able to support a Pastor. Such bands are to be found in all these Provinces, and in the greater number of all the Counties of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Islands of Cape Breton and P. E. Island. To supply these steadily for four, five, or six months, is the special work of the Theological Students, when sent forth as a Catechists. To minister to them for shorter terms, is also one part of the work of the Probationer, and of the ordained minister too, who as opportunity offers, is authorized by the Presbytery employing him, to administer Baptism and the Lord's Supper, in accordance with the laws of the Church.

THE FIELD.

Our Home Mission Field is thus endlessly diversified, and it would be impossible to present all portions of it even in outline. Instead of attempting this, we will make a selection, and present to notice two or three of the places occupied, and cultivated with some care during the year.

THE EASTERN SHORE.

The name is applicable to the whole coast from Halifax, east to Canseau. Proceeding east from Halifax we have first within a mile, Dartmouth congregation, next Lawrencetown, Porters Lake and Cow Bay, extending about 20 miles, under charge of Rev. A. Stuart. We then pass through the congregations of Musquodoboit and Clam Harbours, extending perhaps an equal distance under Rev. J. Rosborough. Mr. Dickie's charge comes next, and is called the congregation of Sheet Harbour, but in fact embraces a half a dozen of small congregations besides that of Sheet Harbour. It includes Tangier, Pope's Harbour, Moseland, Shoal Bay and Spry Bay, all on this side of Sheet Harbour; and beyond it, he extends his visits to Moser's River, Quoddy, Liscomb and Marie Joseph. The places last named are about 28 miles distant from Sheet Harbour, "but distance and difficulties are no obstacles to Mr. Dickie." These are the words of the Catechist now labouring under his direction in this great Home Mission field. He adds "the extent of country that

he has taken up and to which he gives occasional supply, is from Tangier to Liscomb, nearly 60 miles, and the people over all this extent of country he has organized for mission work. The young man from whose letter to the Secretary, these extracts are taken adds "I am to be located at Quoddy, some 12 miles from Sheet Harbour, and have four preaching stations assigned to me, Quoddy, Moser's River, Marie Joseph and Liscomb.

It will thus be seen that our Catechist labours under Mr. Dickie's direction, and sometimes supplies his place while the pastor goes to the distant station, and arranges the work for the assistant. In several of these places there are Episcopal services. Still there is so much of true spiritual destitution, and so much of ritualism without evangelical fervour, that the duty is clear of preaching Christ, to all who choose to hear, and of sending the tidings of a free salvation to the hardy fisherman and his family, who are not slow to distinguish between a merely formal service and a life giving message. In this field Mr. Adam Gunn was the Catechist last year and Mr. Thomas Murray for the present summer. The efforts put forth should have the warm sympathies and the hearty prayers of the Church generally.

STATIONS IN LUNENBURG COUNTY.

Some time ago, the Board were specially appealed to, by the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth, to aid in searching out scattered Presbyterians in Lunenburg and Yarmouth Counties, who might welcome and value services in connection with our Church. A favourable reply being given the Presbytery commenced some Mission Stations in Lunenburg County, having previously received from their Clerk a report of his visits of inquiry to different places. The services of Mr. M. McGregor were procured, and he was appointed to supply Northfield Branch, Riversdale, New Cornwall and Springfield. The following extract from Mr. McGregor's last report will explain his procedure, and to some extent the prospect.

"During 13 weeks, from 1st of January, divine service was conducted on each Lord's day in the several Stations as appointed by the Presbytery. The Bible class at Riversdale had for reasons which I could not control to be discontinued for a time. There and at Northfield I conducted prayer meetings every alternate week, and towards the close of my labours weekly. I had prayer meetings in other places occasionally.

We were under the necessity of holding the Northfield prayer meeting in dwelling houses, and not only Presbyterians but Lutherans and Episcopalians offered the use of their houses. The warm interest