

Home Mission Stations and Congregations of the Synod, with fixed salaries, and having the *status* of Ministers of the Courts of this Church. On hearing this overture the Synod felt the importance of the suggestion ; but, at the same time, owing to the difficulties connected with its reduction to practice, they did not come to any conclusion, appointing only a committee to consider the whole question, and to report at next Annual Meeting of the Supreme Court.

Accordingly, when the Synod met in 1849, this Committee reported that they were deeply impressed with the object contemplated, and the desirableness of having the most efficient agency employed in Home Missionary work ; but that they did not at present see their way to recommend the various parts of the plan proposed. The Synod, therefore, expressing their continued interest in Home Missionary operations, and approving of the efforts made by Presbyteries to communicate Evangelical instruction to the neglected and increasing population of the larger towns and cities,—remitted to the Home Mission Committee to consider what exertions ought to be made with the view of extending the Home Missionary operations of the Synod, and instructing them to prepare a Schedule of questions to be sent to Presbyteries, for ascertaining the exact state of the Home Mission field, and to report to the Synod.

This, however, was found unnecessary, as the Synodical Schedules furnish sufficient information of both the wants and the means of instruction connected with the various Presbyteries.

In general we notice on this department of Missionary work, that at the meeting of Synod in the year 1858, it was found that the Home Missions Committee had supplemented the stipends of 144 Congregations, besides giving aid in the form of grants to twenty other Congregations or Stations. Thus the number of Congregations and Stations which have, by the last accounts, been benefitted by the Home Fund is 164.

Nearly £6,000 had been collected for Home Missions during the year. We are not aware of the number of Congregations which have been formed from the commencement of the new organization of Home Missionary work, but a considerable number, we know, have been formed in Glasgow, where the Home Mission scheme has much scope for its operations among thousands of the hitherto neglected population of that large and continually increasing City. In rural districts also, especially in various parts of the Highlands and Islands, has this work of Home Missions been prosecuted with very successful and encouraging results. The Missionary efforts in England, particularly in Lancashire, have been very successful ; and the exertions in behalf of Ireland, by Deputations and otherwise, have been the means of important benefit.

Indeed, so greatly has the Home Mission Department of our Church increased that an additional Secretary has been found necessary for superintending it. Hence, in 1857, an overture from the