

must not be the measure of the future. As we look before us the field widens, spreading out in interminable vistas, spurring us to ever nobler aspirations and efforts. The Presbyterian Church is, or ought to be, the Church of the future, combining as it does authority with liberty and order; securing their fullest rights to ministers and people; recognizing the unity of the Church as well as the full responsibility of the individual Christian. But Presbyterianism that satisfies itself with past achievements, that glories in mere forms and lip orthodoxy more than in Christ, is a dead thing which can do no good and which should in fact be buried out of sight.

We expect for the Presbyterian Church in Canada a career of which none of her children need ever be ashamed. The field is open to her and she seems disposed to enter. God grant us all faithfulness, zeal and wisdom according to our need and His riches!

HOME MISSION FUND.

As the time is drawing near when our churches make their annual appropriations for the various benevolent schemes, I ask your kind co-operation in presenting before your own congregation and elsewhere the pressing claims of the Home Mission Fund upon the generous support of our members and adherents.

The Report of last Assembly, and the statements of missionaries, published weekly and monthly in our religious periodicals, render it unnecessary that I should refer in detail to the rapidly extending territory opened up to our Church at the present date. Under the Western Committee, and within the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia, there were, according to the last Annual Report, 422 Mission Stations, and 116 Supplemented Congregations, representing 27,571 of a Sabbath attendance, 12,065 communicants and 9,278 families. These figures I am satisfied, fall considerably below the actual numbers, as during the past nine months many new fields have been opened in the North-West, that cannot be reported until the end of the current ecclesiastical year. The Committee are putting forth the most strenuous effort to overtake the large exodus to the North-West, while, at the same time, not neglecting the great spiritual destitution of many portions of the Province of Quebec, the vast lumbering region of the Ottawa, the Muskoka District, the older settled counties, where missionary effort is still imperatively demanded in the interests of our Church.

At the lowest possible calculation, the Committee will require \$45,000 to meet the liabilities of the current year ending March

31st, 1883. The entire sum received by the Agent of the Church, up to the 5th December, was only \$7,108.42, and of this amount \$726 came from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. In order to meet the Half-Yearly and Quarterly Claims of Missionaries, the Committee have been obliged to borrow largely, but they confidently hope, that before the Half-Yearly Meeting in March, a sufficient sum may be in the hands of the Treasurer to liquidate the entire indebtedness of the year. In a year marked by so much commercial and agricultural prosperity, our people will not, I am sure, fall short in their contributions to Home Missions, which are dear to every Christian, and necessary to our very existence as a Church of Christ.

The work of the Committee is increasing and widening year by year. Villages, towns and cities are springing up, as if by magic, along the river banks and on the broad prairies and valleys of the great North-West. Let it be ours to give them the Gospel without delay; for without it all the material prosperity is in vain.

In the name of the Home Mission Committee.

WM. COCHRANE, *Convener.*

Brantford, January 1st, 1883.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

LETTER FROM REV. J. R. FITZPATRICK.

To Dr. McGregor.

LITTLE BAY MINES, Dec. 22nd., 1882.

I was at Bett's Cove when last mail arrived here and did not get your letter in time to return receipt by last mail. I spent two weeks at Betts Cove and found the people very friendly indeed. There are few Presbyterians, still our congregations on the two Sabbaths I was there were very good. They have no other protestant preaching except Methodist service once in six or eight weeks. The Methodist minister there has sixteen different stations to attend to and consequently cannot be very much at any one of them, and besides not many of the Episcopalians usually go to hear the Methodists, they nearly all come out to Presbyterian service. At Little Bay Mines our congregations are very good. The Methodist minister should be here every fourth Sabbath, but can not always fulfil his appointments. He has only been here once since I came. I find the people here very friendly. I have a good boarding house and the winter so far has been very mild. On the whole I am as well satisfied with the place and people as I anticipated, and I find plenty of room for work. Our Sabbath-school is growing larger than at first but as yet we only have about thirty pupils. A number more, however, have promised to come in a short time, and we hope to have a nice school through the winter.