

been mostly arranged, and fill up many of the gaps that existed on our shelves. When the whole series has been distributed in their appropriate positions, the Mineralogical department will present very respectable facilities for study. The Curator secured a large number of useful and valuable specimens last summer, which serve to bring our series of Laurentian rocks nearer to completion, though a goodly number of species are still desiderated.

The department of Palaeontology received a valuable addition from the Museum of the Geological and Natural History Survey at Ottawa. Many of the species are from the Cretaceous formations of the North-West, and relieve a long-felt want. They are authoritatively named, and are thus exceedingly valuable for the purpose of study. Nearly all the Palaeozoic formations are now represented in our collections, and the student is enabled to obtain a clearer view of the ancient life of the globe than he could possibly secure by any amount of reading. We are, however, sadly deficient in the higher classes of Fossils, and in casts representing the Fauna of the Tertiary ages. Will any kind friend furnish us with a Mastodon or with any of his contemporaries? Let our friends remember that our wants are increasing more rapidly than our resources, and that we look to them to furnish the necessary materials to satisfy our many deficiencies.

OUR WESTERN MISSIONS.

Our College Missionary Association has hitherto supported three missions in the west, one in Manitoba and two in the N. W. Territory. The first of these, Waskada, is about twenty miles square, extending along the American border from twenty miles west of Deloraine, the western terminus of the Pembina branch of the C.P. R., to within twenty-five miles of the N.W.T.

In this field there are four preaching stations, where regular fortnightly services are held during the summer season, and as they are not very far apart many are enabled to attend different stations on alternate Sundays, and thus have weekly services. There are no churches in the field, and the services are held in small but comfortable school houses. A union and two Presbyterian Sunday Schools are kept up all summer, in all of which a lively interest is manifested, although the attendance is not very large.

The next field, called after its most important station, Winlaw, is about thirty miles square, lying also along the American border. It lies in the N.W.T. about twenty miles west of the Manitoba boundary line, and is cut in several places by a small stream called the Antler. There are six stations where fortnightly services are held, two in Presbyterian churches, three in school houses, and one in a private house. Sunday Schools are kept open, although the Missionary cannot give them much attention, as his time and energies are pretty well spent by preaching three times a Sunday, and riding from fifteen to twenty miles over rough prairie. The services in this field are well attended and appreciated.

Adjacent to this field, and of much the same extent and character, is the Alameda field, lying almost along

the frontier, and in spite of the McKinley Bill a few faithful Presbyterians from Dakota make their way to the meetings. In this field, like Winlaw, there are six preaching stations. It is cut into two sections by the Souris river, on each side of which there are three stations. One Presbyterian and two union Sunday Schools are kept open during the greater part of the summer. Alameda, the most important station, has a nice little church, capable of accommodating about eighty or a hundred people. Three other services are held in school houses and two in private houses.

Those fields are very thinly settled, as they are far from railroads and other conveniences. Many who have homesteaded land and secured their patents have returned to Ontario and other places to await a fuller development of the country. Although a large percentage of the people are Presbyterians, it is difficult to find very many around one station, as there are as many as seven denominations represented in each field; but almost all welcome the Missionary to their midst and homes, show him the greatest degree of respect and kindness, and are regular attendants at his services.

The great majority of the people are from Ontario, and are by no means an inferior sample of Ontario people. Many of them are persevering young men who have gone out there with a fixed determination to better their circumstances, and although they have to encounter the many difficulties and drawbacks incidental to pioneer life, they meet them bravely and cheerfully, while they have as yet little encouragement besides the bare prospect of better times. The great drawback, especially in the N.W.T., is the want of a railroad, which has been promised them, and for which they have been waiting since '82. Between distance from markets, losses from frosts, hail, drouth, and other inclemencies of a capricious climate, these missions are yet far from self-sustaining. The people, however, appreciate the efforts of the Association and its friends, and cheerfully contribute, perhaps more, according to their means, than we do in the east. But if we do our part now, and keep up those missions until the place becomes better developed and settled, it is, surely, not too much to hope that each field may become not one but many self-supporting congregations, seeing that the three fields comprise a greater area than all of the seven provinces of the Dominion. The moral condition of the Western States should be to us a warning not to neglect the west in its infancy. This year the Association has taken up two additional fields, viz., Grenfell and Ravenswood, both in the N.W.T., of which an account may be given later on.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Since the last annual report of the Missionary Association was published, April 12th, 1890, the following is a summary:

HOME MISSIONS.

Liabilities.....	\$1,427 51
Receipts.....	762 62

Balance to be raised before April 11th\$ 664 89

Contributions should be sent to James Cattnach, B. A., Treasurer.