

The Committee are quite sensible that their report is not all that might be desired, and earnestly beg the indulgence of the Synod, and the hearty co-operation of Presbyteries in their effort to carry on the Home Mission operations of the church, that each year the report may be more and more encouraging. Committing this their work to the Lord of the harvest, the above report is respectfully submitted in the name of the Committee.

JOHN LAING,
Convener.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

It is not long since a clever cartoon was published by the great English caricaturist of the age, in which an elderly lady is represented looking through a telescope towards the coast of Africa, lined by her dusky sons and daughters, while the broad hem of her richly embroidered garment is being touched by a little wild Arab of the city, who with a ludicrous air, and in a serio-comic tone is asking, "Am not I dark and dirty enough"? The point of the caricature is manifest. We would not be careful to answer the maligners of Foreign Missions in this matter. It is enough to say that if the early propagators of our holy Religion had acted on the principle it insinuates, the gospel would never have reached us, and that, in point of fact, the most liberal and devoted promoters and supporters of Missions abroad, have thrown themselves most heartily into the work of Home Evangelization. The churches which have most fully enlarged the place of their tent, and stretched forth the curtains of their habitation, and broken forth on the right hand and the left, have felt the reflex influence in a quickened zeal and a more enlarged and enlightened liberality, in the prosecution of home efforts. Just in the degree in which as a church, we lift up our eyes and look abroad on the fields which are white already to harvest, will we be found going up to possess this land for Him whose right it is. Our history as a church has, in part verified this. Hitherto, ours has been a kind of intermediate work. We have been endeavouring to carry the privileges with which we are favored to those who are "separated from their brethren in the great North West. But this memorable year has been signalized by a step in advance.

OUR MISSION TO THE AMERICAN INDIANS.

The arrangements have now been completed for carrying out our long cherished project of carrying the unsearchable riches of Christ to the poor Indian. At the very time we are now in session, our devoted brother Mr. Nisbet, with his able assistants and their families, will be setting out for their distant field. To some extent they have gone out not knowing whither they went—in compliance with what we believe to be a divine call—"Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred unto a land which I shall show thee." "As to a locality (writes Mr. Nisbet) we have consulted with the Heads of the Episcopal and Wesleyan Missions in the Saskatchewan District, and also with W. Christie Esq., the H. B. Co's Superintendent in the District, and have also had the opinion of other parties acquainted with that region. All are agreed as to the *whereabouts* we should pitch our tent, but the particular place we shall not determine till I have an opportunity of personally consulting with the Indians, and seeing for myself such places as may be proposed. Thus far the way has been opened up before us with scarcely an effort on our part, and, if we had been searching everywhere, we are quite sure we could not have done better for ourselves. Our great anxiety now is

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