

cause of Christ generally. It is for the Presbyterians living in the older Provinces of Canada to say whether or not Manitoba and the North-West will be largely Presbyterian. If our Church does not occupy and work the field, other Churches will. If then our Presbyterianism is worth maintaining, if it is what we claim it to be, and if the cause of Christ is dear to our hearts, our people will come forward with their large-hearted offerings of gold and silver, and say to the Home Mission Board: Here is the money, you have our prayers and our sympathy, send forth more laborers into the harvest field.

A third argument is the importance of giving employment to our theological students during the summer months. At one time it was thought a young man should not be allowed to preach till he had finished his college studies, and had been duly licensed by Presbytery, and as a consequence the first year or two of his ministry was experimental, often ending in failure. You may teach a boy the theory of swimming, tell him how to use his hands and feet, and then throw him into the water, and the probability is that he will sink. He must learn by practice. In like manner, it is not sufficient that our students study theology and learn the theory of preaching in College; they acquire the practice, and very frequently an intelligent young man will learn more practical theology, and require a more accurate knowledge of men and their necessities in one summer than he would learn for years in any Theological Hall. The summer's experience will send him back to his winter's study, with new views and with renewed determination to prepare himself for the great work to which he has been called.

A fourth argument is, that Christ's commission demands continued and increasing interest in his work at home and abroad. — "Go, preach the gospel to every creature." While the Apostles were to go into all the world and preach, they were to begin at Jerusalem.

Now what is the interest manifested by our people in the Home Mission work of the Church? For the year ending March 1881, the Presbyterians of the Lower Provinces gave at the rate of 14 cents per communicant for this scheme. It is evident that if our Home Mission operations are to be carried on efficiently and effectively, that if our Church is to accomplish the great work entrusted to her, and that if our cause is to prosper in the Dominion, there must be a large increase in the sums contributed by our congregations, our people must come up "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

Hitherto our Church has received annually grants from the parent Churches in Britain and Ireland; can we honestly ask those Churches to continue those grants towards the Home and Supplementing Funds in the East? Has not the time come when we shall say to the parent Churches; we thank you for your kindness in the past, you have given us timely aid but now as we can pay our own missionaries, and meet all our own liabilities, we take the liberty of recommending to your kindly attention the great fields of the West to which hundreds and thousands of Presbyterians from Great Britain and Ireland are flocking? We may reasonably expect that the home Churches will give liberal aid for the cause of Christ in the West, but the great responsibility must rest upon our own Church. Shall we prove recreant to our trust, or shall we honorably and earnestly meet our obligations? God has opened up at our door a large and inviting field. Christ commands us to occupy for Him. Earnest and talented young men are anxious to go, urgent appeals are sent for help and for ministers to preach the gospel, and what are our congregations doing? They claim to be Presbyterians, they claim to be Christians, they claim to be loyal to the faith of their fathers! Where is the evidence of their loyalty? Is it in the few paltry cents they give to Christ? We