

has the honour of being the first which introduced it into our Church some twenty-five years ago. He remained its steady and zealous advocate till the very close of his life, and it is an interesting fact that on the very day on which he was seized with his last illness he requested the Secretary to send him the answers to our Circular which had been received. They were sent immediately, but before they reached him he was so completely prostrated that he could give them no attention, and passed away without knowing how much progress the principles which he held so firmly had really made. After the touching, loving, and grateful tribute already paid to his memory by his pastor, friend and co-worker on another Committee, it is unnecessary for us to dwell upon the loss which we have sustained. We believe that the best way in which the Church can shew her appreciation of his worth is to carry out to a happy issue these religious and benevolent enterprises the success of which lay so near his heart.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Committee would present the following recommendations for the consideration of Synod:—

First—That the Synod authorize the Committee to issue immediately a Circular reminding office-bearers, members and adherents of the recommendations of Synod, re-stating our principles, indicating the progress which has been made, and urging to continued and increased efforts to carry on the work as rapidly and as effectively as possible.

Second—That the Synod instruct the Committee to watch over the progress made during the year, and shortly before the next meeting to inquire into the matter; and further, that the Synod recommend all the Moderators of Sessions to give answers to be returned to the Committee.

Third—That the Synod insert the following question in the formulæ proposed by Presbyteries to congregations at Presbyterial visitations, "What has been done to carry out the recommendations of Synod antecedent Systematic Beneficence?"

Fourth—That the Synod recommend to Sessions and Boards of Managers the extensive circulation of tracts and other literature bearing upon the subject throughout our congregations.

The Report gave rise to an animated discussion, and the following Recommendations were adopted:

1. That the Synod authorize the Committee to issue immediately a circular, reminding office-bearers, members and ad-

herents of the recommendations of Synod, re-stating our principles, indicating the progress which has been made, and urging to continued and increased efforts to carry on the work as rapidly and as effectively as possible.

2. That the Synod instruct the Committee to watch over the progress made during the year, and shortly before next meeting of Synod, to collect information by circular or otherwise respecting the advancement made.

3. That the Synod recommend to Sessions and Boards of Managers the extensive circulation of tracts, and other literature bearing upon the subject throughout our Congregations.

The Committee was reappointed and the thanks of the Synod tendered. G. H. Blanchard, Esq., was appointed in the room of the late Roderick MacGregor.

HOME MISSION.

The Clerk read the Report of the Home Mission Board, which was as follows:

Report of the Board of Home Missions, 1871.

The Home Mission work of the Church is one of growing interest and importance. It now extends to five colonies, and is connected with a Presbyterian population of some 120,000. We have to watch over the interests, receive the applications, and, so far as means and resources allow, supply the need of ten Presbyteries and their 130 congregations, and numerous mission stations. We are the servants of the whole Church, and have to do with congregations during the season of their greatest trial, when seeking to provide for themselves and their children a faithful pastor.

We feel, therefore, that on the way in which our functions are discharged much depends as regards the progress of our churches and the moral and spiritual well-being of large bodies of our people. The responsibility thus involved is the more deeply felt in consequence of our inability to do the half of what we desire to do for our vacant charges, and we can do still less for the more secluded and scattered of our people, living in numbers too small to be gathered into flourishing congregations.

But we have done what we could, and with gratitude to the Father of mercies and the Spirit of all grace, we will now proceed to lay a brief record of facts before Synod.

EXTENT OF WORK.

The work this year has extended nearly to our limits north and south, for our missionaries have been from Cape North to