

very important document. The Report sets out with stating that the Home Mission Board was constituted in 1868, at the first meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces (before that there was a Synod in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia), hence this is the Fourth Annual Report. At that time, of the 31 ministers either settled or giving stated supply, 21 were supplemented. The self-sustaining congregations were in a minority in almost every Presbytery, and they were actually becoming fewer in number. In such circumstances it was no wonder that it was felt that the time had come for vigorous effort. The H. M. Board being organized, set four objects before it, viz.:—(1) To diminish the amount drawn from the Colonial Committee of the Home Church without diminishing the salaries of ministers and missionaries; (2) To increase the amount raised by themselves; (3) To urge on congregations the prime duty of becoming self-sustaining as soon as possible; and (4) To arrange and work a plan for the efficient and economical distribution of missionaries among the different Presbyteries. With regard to the first object the result has been marvellous. The sum drawn from the Colonial Committee last year was less than a fourth of what was drawn four years ago. Here are the sums which were drawn in the successive years respectively, \$6,542, \$3,619, \$2,431, \$1,540. The Board are of opinion that the money got from Scotland should be spent not in supplementing congregations, but should be given to Colleges, Building Grants, Guarantees to Missionaries for their first year or two, and Church Extension or the formation of new charges. As a Church they think it is time to aspire to "the glorious privilege of being independent." As to the second object, there was less than \$800 a year raised for this purpose four years ago, now there is over \$2,300, and if all congregations were to do as well as some, at least \$3,500 would be realized. It is stated that from nearly one third of the congregations no collections have come in. We might add that of the whole sum raised more than one-fourth comes from one congregation.—St. Matthew's, Halifax, of which the Convener is pastor. In the third object the progress made may be stated in a word, and it is no less encouraging than in the other two cases. It has been stated already that 21 congregations were supplemented four years ago. Here is what the present report says:—"We have now forty charges; thirty-five of them are supplied, in every case but one, with ministers duly called and settled; and we have two missionaries in the foreign field. Only ten of the thirty-five are supplemented; and even if all our forty charges had ministers, at the most

fourteen would be supplemented." In the distribution of missionaries it is stated that four were gained during the year and one lost. The loss, however, is the gain of a congregation, which instead of being vacant is now settled. As to Church extension, the Report speaks in a different tone. Complaint is made that in this item nothing has been done at all. In commenting on this state of things, some plain truths are uttered in a very pointed manner. This work, the report says, should be done by Catechists, Divinity students, and other laborers; but then the question stares us in the face, that the students of the Church have to go elsewhere for their Divinity, and so their summer's labor is not available. If the Synod is prepared to take action in this state of things the Board is prepared to suggest a way. What the way is we can but guess, but we think that our guess is not far from the truth. It is that the two Synods co-operate in sustaining the Hall in Halifax, the Kirk Synod to appoint and support a third Professor in addition to the two that the other Synod has already there. We see no difficulty in the way of such an arrangement. We cannot help thinking that much of the success that has attended the Board's operations is due to the untiring vigilance, great organizing power, and admirable tact of the Convener.

We have left ourselves very little room to speak of the other matters that came before the Synod. The Foreign Mission Committee report two missionaries now in the field. The Synod Fund is in a solvent state. And the other schemes are similarly situated. A Widows' and Orphans' Fund is being inaugurated, and an Aged and Infirm Ministers' scheme is being agitated. There is a Committee on Statistics, but no written report was rendered this year. There are no committees on Temperance or on the Observance of the Sabbath. An overture on Christian life and work was brought up, and a resolution to take action on it moved and seconded, but the matter was deferred.

The following are the contributions made to the scheme for the year:—Foreign Mission, \$2,473.56; Home Mission, \$2,385.19, Synod Fund, \$416.98; Bursary Fund, \$530; in all \$5,805.73.

(From the Christian Messenger.)

On Sabbath Observance.

The following is the Report of the Committee of the Central Association (Baptist) on this subject:—

The Great God has ordained that man should work six days, and then rest one day. That is his will. It was declared immediately after the finishing stroke was