

ing the winter months. During the period of Dr. Clarke's labours at Metis very great progress has been made in the in-gathering and consolidation of the congregation.

#### EVENING SESSION.

In the evening the Committee spent a large portion of its time in hearing new applications for aid to mission stations, or the increase of grants already made. Several new fields were added to the list, and increased grants made to special cases.

Mr. Moodie, clerk of the Barrie Presbytery, presented a request from that body, asking that certain catechists laboring within the bounds be supplemented up to \$600 per annum. The Presbytery also asked that a change should be made in the regulations affecting catechists, so that such a change might be made in the case of all such approved catechists in the Church. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that approved catechists, recommended by a Presbytery within whose bounds they have laboured with acceptance, and appointed by this Committee in conjunction with the Presbytery to a mission field for a term of at least one year, receive at the rate of \$550 per annum.

Mr. Henry Knox was appointed to one of the Muskoka fields under this arrangement.

Mr. R. N. Grant, of Orillia, supported a memorial from the Barrie Presbytery, asking the Committee to appoint a Superintendent of Missions for the Muskoka District. During the discussion of this question the hour of adjournment arrived.

It was agreed by the sub-committee in the matter of the Augmentation of Stipends for the present year, to pay all grants for the half year ending 1st October, at the rate of \$750 per annum and manse, in the faith that there would be such a generous and liberal return as will justify the Committee in departing from the letter of the Assembly regulation, to the effect that grants only be paid up to \$600 per annum in October, and the surplus at the end of the ecclesiastical year (April) then distributed, increasing the grant to \$750 and manse.

#### WEDNESDAY.

Messrs. Warden and Macdonnell were appointed to examine and report on the returns of the Synod of Manitoba, concerning Home Mission Work in the North-West. At a subsequent sederunt they presented a report, stating that they found full statements of all the expenditure for mission work and expenses in the report submitted, but suggesting certain changes to be observed in submitting half-yearly reports in the future. The suggestion was agreed to.

An application from the Synod of Manitoba, for a certain amount to defray the expenses of a secretary-treasurer for synodical Home Mission work, and other matters were considered at great length. After considerable discussion, a sum of \$500 was granted the Synodical Committee to defray certain unforeseen expenses connected with the erection of said Synodical Committee, and it was decided to delay consideration of all details until next April.

The appointment of a Superintendent of Missions for Muskoka was again taken up and discussed. The following resolution was adopted: "That an ordained missionary be appointed to labour in and supervise the missions fields in the Algoma, Muskoka, and Parry Sound Districts, and all along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to North Bay. He shall discharge his duties under the direction of the Executive of this Committee, being subject to the jurisdiction of the Presbyteries of Bruce and Barrie respectively, while within their bounds." It was also agreed that his salary should be \$1,200 per annum with travelling expenses beyond the bounds of the Presbytery of Barrie. The Rev. A. Findlay was afterwards elected to said office.

Mr. D. J. Macdonnell presented the report of the sub-committee on Augmentation of Stipends. Its recommendations were adopted. A report was also given in by Mr. Macdonnell regarding a visit made by himself and Mr. Warden to the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, regarding the unification of mission and augmentation schemes by the Eastern and Western committees. The report was received and the brethren thanked for their diligence.

Claims for supplemented congregations in Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba, amounting to \$14,000, were passed and ordered to be paid. Several application for increased grants were also received.

Mr. Thomas McCrae, of Guelph, having intimated his intention to pay the grant due to the stations

supplied by Mr. Henry Knox, catechist, thus relieving the fund to the amount of \$91, the Committee resolved to express its grateful recognition of Mr. McCrae's liberality on this occasion as well as in the generous contributions towards the maintenance of Mr. Knox, who has laboured successfully in the Mission Work of the Church in Muskoka, having been thus induced chiefly by Mr. McCrae to enter upon the work.

Mr. Sieveright, of Huntsville, Muskoka, addressed the Committee on Mission Work in that district, and the necessity of having a Church and Manse Building Fund, in order to gather more easily the scattered Presbyterians in the sparsely settled parts of the country. A discussion followed on the propriety of asking the General Assembly to establish a Manse and Church Building Fund for Ontario and Quebec. The matter was allowed to stand over for further consideration till next April.

Pending the discussion of Manitoba matters the Committee adjourned to meet again this morning at nine o'clock.

#### THURSDAY MORNING.

Dr. Campbell, on behalf of a committee appointed to formulate rules for appointing missionaries to mission stations and special fields, presented a report, which was considered *seriatim*, adopted as a whole, and ordered to be printed for the use of the members of the committee, the Presbyteries of the Church, and students of the various colleges.

A large portion of the forenoon was spent in discussing certain claims presented by the Manitoba Synod, and moneys advanced in special cases. A number of catechists recommended by the Synodical Committee of that Synod were put upon the list of labourers for the ensuing winter months.

The convener read letters from the Rev. J. S. McKay, of New Westminster, British Columbia, and Rev. Mr. Dunn, of Langley, giving interesting statements as to the condition of the work there, and urging upon the committee the necessity of appointing additional ministers. The Executive Committee were instructed to appoint a suitable minister to proceed to British Columbia and strengthen the hands of the brethren already there.

A report from Rev. A. B. Baird, of Edmonton, N.W.T., giving an account of the progress of this field, and the labours of himself and Mr. J. L. Campbell during the present summer, was read. The advance of this charge, where Mr. Baird is now settled as pastor, is exceedingly gratifying.

The Rev. James Robertson, of Winnipeg, submitted an interesting report of his recent visit to Manitoba station fields. The following is the substance of his report: "I have visited forty-three mission fields and supplemented congregations, travelling between 2,200 and 2,300 miles by buckboard, and about 6,500 miles by rail, not including travel involved in attending Church courts. Since the end of September the Rev. A. B. Baird was settled at Edmonton, Brandon Presbytery; Mr. A. Urquhart at Regina, and Mr. James Todd at Burnside in the same Presbytery. Eight new fields with twenty-three stations have been occupied this summer, bringing up the number of points at which services are held to 273. The work done this summer has been most satisfactory. Large districts, however, have been unoccupied by our Church. In the Qu'Appelle Valley, and in the North, there are between 2,500 and 3,000 without any provision for their spiritual welfare. Over 270 Presbyterian homesteads are found in the south-east part of Assiniboia and in the south-west part of Manitoba. In the South Mouse Mountain country, also, a number of settlers are found, probably 200 householders. It is most desirable that the Church should do something to overtake the spiritual wants of these people, but with the funds at the disposal of the Synod of Manitoba it is impossible to be done. The Brandon Presbytery is anxious to appoint a missionary to the Cathcart colonists, and the whole of his salary must be borne by the committee (unless he could combine with his duties that of a teacher), on account of the poverty of the settlers.

Since the close of summer a large number of congregations or mission fields are without supply of any kind. Sister congregations having sixty or sixty-one mission stations with 538 families and 510 communicants are in this position. Unless means are available many such vacancies must remain during the present winter.

The following appointments were made: Rev. A. K. Caswell, to Sault Ste. Marie; Rev. A. F. Macken-

zie, to Bruce Mines for six months, Rev. D. Davidson, to Gore Bay, Rev. L. Dwinne, to Metis for six months, Rev. M. Mackenzie, to Manitoba, and Rev. T. Alexander to Hamilton Presbytery for six months.

A large amount of routine business was transacted, after which the Committee adjourned.

#### GOSPEL WORK.

##### SKETCHES AND INCIDENTS.—NUMBER I.

BY A PRESBYTERIAN ELDER.

In the year 186 that highly esteemed and much honoured servant of Christ, Duncan Matheson, who has since been called to his rest and reward, was conducting evangelistic services with much success in the town where the writer's lot in the providence of God had, a short time previously, been cast. Fresh from the country, the writer was in that perilous position in which so many young men inexperienced in regard to the wiles and seductions of city life, make shipwreck of their prospects for time and eternity.

Through the instrumentality of one whose prayers had for some time previously been unceasing on his behalf, he was somewhat reluctantly induced to attend the place where the services were being held. Accustomed only to the regular services of the sanctuary as conducted in accordance with Presbyterian rules by ordained ministers, there was on this occasion something to him at once novel and interesting both in the messenger and his message. Although nearly twenty years ago, how well does he yet remember the appearance of God's dear servant, as with sonorous voice he pleaded with his hearers to admit the Saviour there and then into their hearts. The word was with power, conviction was lodged, prayer was answered, and the proud, haughty young man retires to his lodgings, and for the first time it is recorded of him in heaven, "Behold, he prayeth." Many weary days and nights are yet, however, in store for him, during which he learns much of the demerits of sin and the deceitfulness of his own heart.

At last the hour of deliverance comes; the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the way of salvation are revealed by the Holy Spirit in that well-known text, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Prompted by love to the Saviour and burning with desire to do good to others, he without delay became associated with a church, blessed with the labours of a minister of the Gospel whose prayerfulness, faithfulness, and devotion to the work of winning souls to Christ, resulted in drawing around him a number of like-minded young men. These young men formed themselves into an evangelistic and tract society. Anxious to equip themselves for the work, the president formed a class for the teaching of systematic theology, "The Westminster Confession of Faith," and "Hodge's Outlines of Theology," being the text books. The members of the class were also in possession of Bonar's "Truth and Error."

Being for the most part engaged in commercial pursuits, the members of the society set about in a thoroughly practical and business manner to carry on its operations. Observing the means employed by the heads of enterprising business houses and lessees of theatres to make their several enterprises successful, they obtained two boards, on which were placed two large posters published by the Scottish evangelist referred to, and a sandwich-man was employed to carry them on the Saturday afternoon along the crowded thoroughfares of the town.

From a report submitted by the tract superintendent, and at present before me, I find that 110,172 tracts were distributed during the first year of the existence of the society. A prayer meeting was established on the Sunday evenings, from which an adjournment was made to a space in the market place a large open square—where multitudes were in the habit of regularly resorting.

Good harmonized singing, up to this time, so far as the writer's knowledge extends, had not, in the public streets, been to any extent practised. It was, therefore, with considerable surprise that the crowd heard a well known tune rendered in such a way as they had not been accustomed to in connection with open air services. The success was complete, the attention of the crowd was arrested; they pressed around the singers, listening with eager and intense delight. The preaching of the everlasting Gospel of the Kingdom followed, the results of which the day alone can declare.—*The Christian.*