

increase of stated incomes and salaries, has been generally recognized, and acted upon in other positions in life, and in other professions.

2. That office bearers should be more regular, and painstaking in providing for the means of paying the Minister's stipend—and they are urged to seek out additional ways of drawing out the liberality of the people. Collections from house to house have been successful in some cases, and the co-operation of the female members of the Congregation may also be availed of with advantage.

3. It is also recommended that each congregation seek to have a Manse in connection with their church.

4. That office bearers should aim at the greatest regularity in the management of the affairs of their respective churches, as it may be considered a necessary consequence, that without system its temporal affairs will not prosper.

D. CATTANACH, *Chairman.*  
JAMES COURT, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1856.

The work entrusted to the care and oversight of your Committee, is one of great extent and importance, and its magnitude is growing from year to year. Several settlements have taken place within the bounds of the several Presbyteries, to which more special reference will be made in course of the Report. But while these settlements have taken place, lessening at some particular points the spiritual destitution, the pressure of which we have so extensively experienced, the field calling for missionary agency is on the whole as large as ever; indeed, in consequence of the advancing settlement of the country and the opening of new mission stations, its extent has increased rather than diminished. At the same time the Committee have the pleasure of announcing to the Synod, that at the last meeting of the Home Mission Committee, pretty full provision was made for meeting the existing destitution, at least much more ample provision than on any former occasion, the demands of most of the Presbyteries having been met by the Home Mission Committee. At the meeting of the Committee in the end of October, there were only eighteen missionaries for distribution among all the Presbyteries of the Church. These were distributed as equitably as possible, but the supply was very inadequate, five being the largest number assigned to any Presbytery, while twice that number would have been a meagre enough supply. At the meeting in the end of April, the Committee on making up its list found at its disposal, *forty-six* labourers in all,—*sixteen* preachers and *thirty* students.

It is gratifying that so many labourers were available for supplying the special destitution so lamentably prevalent. We trust that by the blessing of God we shall be able henceforth to overtake the work more fully than in former years. For this supply we are indebted in part to the Churches in Scotland and Ireland, having received from the former church, four ministers and three students; and from the latter, three ministers. A pretty constant correspondence has been kept up by the Convener of the Committee with the Rev. Mr. Bonar, and the Rev. Mr. McLure. Both of these excellent friends hold out the prospects of a larger supply of labourers than we have hitherto received. But while we gratefully acknowledge our obligations to these churches, it is right to notice that the supply has been mainly from our own College. As stated above, thirty of the missionaries are students of Knox's College, and of these eight have just completed their curriculum, and will forthwith be admitted to their public probationary trials. Of the students now employed as catechists or mis-

sionaries, some are at a comparatively early stage of their course, although none have been employed who are not regarded as suitably qualified for the important work. But the Committee believe that very soon now it will not be found necessary to press into the service any of the students except those of the most advanced class, for, while there are some advantages, there are also disadvantages affecting the students themselves, connected with their employment as missionaries at an early stage of their Theological course.

The Committee would now advert briefly to the condition of each of the Presbyteries beginning in the East with the Presbytery of Montreal. In this Presbytery three ministers have been settled during the past year, namely Messrs. Crombie, Kemp, and Currie. There are at present three vacant Congregations, viz., Martintown and Williamstown, St. Fustache and Grand Freriere, and Laguerre. There are also three mission stations where the congregations are fully organized, viz., Lingwick, Kenyon, and Port Neuf; and four stations requiring supply but where the congregations are not as yet organized, viz., Grenville and Harrington, Finch, and Chatoanguay Basin. Six missionaries are at present labouring within the bounds of this Presbytery, supplying these various stations.

2. *Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa.*—In this Presbytery there are at present three vacant congregations, viz., Brockville, Pombroke, and Edwardsburgh. There are seven organized congregations requiring supply, and one station not yet organized. To this Presbytery six missionaries have been assigned.

3. *Presbytery of Kingston.*—In this Presbytery there are three vacant congregations, viz., Demorestville, Melrose and Roslin, and Madoc. Besides these there are two stations in the neighbourhood of Kingston, viz., Storrington and Ballinshinch. One settlement has taken place, during the year past, viz., Mr. Pearce, who succeeded Rev. R. F. Burns, as Pastor of Chalmers' Church. Three missionaries are labouring within the bounds of this Presbytery.

4. *Presbytery of Cobourg.*—In this Presbytery there has been one pastoral settlement during the year, viz., Mr. Thomson at Trenton and Murray. There is at present only one mission field, viz., Percy and Alnwick, where Mr. Tait, Probationer is now labouring.

5. *Presbytery of Toronto.*—In this Presbytery there are now five charges vacant, which formerly enjoyed a stated ministry, viz., Second Congregation, Toronto,—Markham,—Whitby,—Brock and Reach,—Caledon and Erin. These are all anxious to obtain Pastors. Some of them are now taking steps for obtaining settled ministers, and some, especially the Second Congregation, Toronto, have for some time been anxiously seeking to obtain a Pastor to watch for their souls. Besides these Congregations at present vacant, there are also congregations ready for settlement at Boston and Milton,—Mono and Caledon East,—St. Vincent and Euphrasia, and we might perhaps add Nottawasaga and Sunnidale. The following stations are also important and require missionary labour, viz.:—Collingwood which is fast becoming a town of importance, from its relation to the traffic of Lake Huron and the far west by the Northern Railroad,—Artemisia, Medonte, Flos and Oro, Recorder's Cotuets, Markham, and Weston and Lambton. During the winter most of the places, except some of the more remote, were supplied by the Students of Knox's College. There are now labouring, within the bounds of the Presbytery, ten missionaries. No settlements have taken place in the course of the year, but several congregations are at present taking steps to call ministers.

6. *Presbytery of Hamilton.*—In this Presbytery several settlements have taken place since last Synod, viz., Mr. Burns at St. Catharines,

Mr. Gillespie, at Blenheim, Mr. McLean, at East Puslinch, Mr. McLudde, at Wellington Square and Waterdown, Mr. Middlemiss, at Elora, and Mr. Craigie, at Port Dover and Simcoe. Notwithstanding this large addition to the number of settled ministers, there are still three organized congregations destitute of a settled ministry, viz., Dunnville, Berlin and Woolwich, and Doon and New Hope, besides fifteen other stations requiring supply, at most of which there are large congregations, and many may be regarded as ripe for settlement. These stations are the following, viz.:—Allansville, Walpole, Wellesley, Maryborough, Jarvis, Derby, Sullivan, West Puslinch, Mount Forest, Darham, Bentinck, Glenelg, Garafraxa, Normanby, and Grimsby. A large proportion of these stations would be self-sustaining under the charge of diligent and efficient labourers. At the meeting of the Home Mission Committee, eleven missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery.

*Presbytery of London.*—Within the bounds of this extensive Presbytery, there have been three settlements since last meeting of Synod, by Rev. N. Bethune at Thamesford, Rev. Mr. Ferguson at Lobo, and Rev. Mr. Gauld at Moore. One of these, the Rev. N. Bethune has since been translated, as we have good ground to hope, to the church above, leaving a sorrowing congregation, and a bereaved partner. There are at present 4 vacant congregations, viz., Thamesford, St. Thomas, Fingal, and Plympton. Besides these, there are at least 27 congregations and stations requiring supply, seventeen of them being fully organized, viz., Tilbury, Ridgetown, Wallacetown, Chalmers' Church, Yarmouth, Dorchester, Westminster, Port Burwell, Beachville, Beausart, Dunwich, St. Mary's, Mitchell, Wawanosh; Huron, and Ashfield, Kincaidine, and Bruce, the ten, which are not fully organized but many of them large and important, are the following: Windsor, Mersea, Wallaceburgh, Wardsville, Komoka, and South Carradoc, East Zorra, Ebniskillen, Mornington, Clinton, Grey, and Morris. Nine Missionaries were assigned to this Presbytery, a member not fully adequate for undertaking the work, but still affording more ample supply than has ever been afforded before.

We have thus gone over the various Presbyteries of the Church, and from the short sketch which has been given, it will be seen, that there are at present, 56 organized congregations, and 33 stations, many of them, however, ready for organization and settlement, while there are but 16 Preachers and ten students ready for license.

Your Committee have pleasure in being able to state that, throughout the church generally deeper interest is felt in the Home Missions of the Church, than was felt and manifested at one time. In all the Presbyteries the supply of destitute congregations and stations is looked upon as a duty of primary importance. Almost every Minister gives some portion of his time to this work, and so far as we know this is not grudged by the various congregations. In the present scarcity of labourers, much might be done, and much is done by the systematic efforts of members of the several Presbyteries. Missionary meetings are held throughout most of the congregations. In some quarters these have as yet been only partially successful; but, it is believed their beneficial influence is very generally acknowledged.

Your Committee will not occupy the time of the Synod with many suggestions; but, would leave the matter in the hand of the Synod. There are, however, two or three things, to which reference may be made in a few words. 1. The Committee would put in view of the Synod, to recommend strongly to the several Presbyteries to use all diligence in looking after the new stations, organizing them as soon as