

ers of paradise bloom where there was nothing before but thorns and briars. Such transformations we have frequently witnessed in this country : we may by the grace of God witness them every succeeding year. The **HEAD of the CHURCH** has graciously crowned our Home Mission work with great success. Our preachers are ever welcome from one end of the country to the other, and the ever recurring call is for more preaching. Vacant congregations are becoming filled. Charges that are too large and unwieldy are being divided. Stations are being occupied where Presbyterian preachers have seldom or never appeared before. These stations in course of time, (some indeed in a very short time,) become congregations and seek the services of a regular ministry.

Weak congregations thus grow up around us. These require help for a few years ; and when vigorously and faithfully wrought up they not only become self-sustaining but speedily pay back to other weak charges the funds once so useful in sustaining themselves.

Almost *one-third* of the congregations in our Synod have been, or are now, receiving aid from the Home Mission Funds. We speak within bounds when we say that *fifteen* congregations which are now not only self-supporting but assist all the schemes of the Church, owe their existence and their prosperity to the aid received from the Home Mission. We hope then that our people will not forget the ever-pressing claims of this vital work. The number of Home Missionaries at present in the field is unusually small, but next summer we expect a very decided increase. Our field is extensive—Bermuda, Labrador, P. E. Island, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia proper, and in a short time it is likely that we may add—New Brunswick.

THE COLLEGE.

The current session of our Theological College was inaugurated on Monday evening the 31st October, in Poplar Grove Church. Professor McKnight delivered a very learned and instructive address on the

occasion showing the value of the Oriental languages to the Biblical Student.

The classes have now been in operation for more than a month. There are twenty students in attendance, and we are glad to say that both Students and Professors begin the winter's work in good health and spirits. May God graciously give them strength for their arduous labours ! Dr. SMITH commences his class in December and continues three months ; Professors King and McKnight commence their classes on the 1st November and continue till late in April.

We hope that the claims of the College upon the prayers and the purses of our people will not be forgotten in the multiplicity of calls. Any Church might well rejoice in having such Professors, and such students as we now have. It is a privilege as well as a duty to do all in our power to cheer and sustain them in the great work to which they have devoted themselves. The character and prosperity of our Church will depend under God, on our Ministers : the character and success of our Ministers will depend very largely upon their College training : and the prosperity of the College cannot fail to be influenced by the good will, the prayers and the gifts of the people.

OUR STATISTICS.

We hope that the statistical tables given in the November *Record* have been, by this time, carefully studied. They show our strength and our weakness as a Church.—We have 56,429 adherents and but 11,549 communicants ; that is, only about one out of every five adherents sits down at the Lord's Table, obeying the Saviour's dying command. This should not be so. The number of baptisms is very satisfactory,—the proportion to the number of families indicating that the duty of dedicating the young to the Lord is very generally attended to. Bible Classes are set down at 116—certainly far too few. More of the young men and of the young women of the Church would be gathered earlier within her fold if Bible Classes were more general. And, in sooth, no one is so old or so well instructed as to be justified in absenting himself from