

have heard frequently, unsought and disinterested testimony to the zeal and laboriousness, alike of the probationer and of the theological students employed in the work, while no whisper of any wrong doing or even impropriety has been heard in any case.

Such a report should awaken gratitude, and should not be assumed as a thing of course. Our Home missionaries have been sustained by grace, and we should seek more grace for them and for their successors. The most of them are *young* and inexperienced, and yet they are often sent into the most difficult places, and to do the most difficult duties. They meet first of all with the indifference and spiritual deadness of the great body of their hearers in most places, and secondly with the infidelity and practical universalism of some of the more skeptical and talkative and active, in most villages and settlements. In words used by Dr. Wayland more than forty years ago, in his famous sermon in moral dignity of the missionary enterprise, "It may be truthfully affirmed that consummate wisdom, perseverance, self denial, courage, faith, are all required to make a successful missionary." But all these good gifts come down from the Father of lights, and to Him must we all go, seeking that our missionaries may be thoroughly furnished with then unto all good works.

FINANCIAL.

Our receipts for the year have been \$3073 61, all of which we have used and a little more, for while our opening balance was \$507 35, our closing balance is \$491 49. We have paid \$175, which belonged to former years, and over \$600 for supplements. The first half year's payments, those in New Brunswick excepted, having been made from the Home Mission Fund on the first of July, while the Supplementary Fund scarcely existed. While the Board feel therefore that they have been well sustained by the church, and consequently have met all Presbyterian demands in a liberal spirit, they have felt that their funds were solicited occasionally for congregations which were really able to pay their own way, and that greater efforts should be made at least by some Presbyteries to induce congregations when they become vacant to keep their financial machinery in motion, and to prevail upon them if possible on the first day of the week to lay by them in store as the Lord has prospered them, casting it into the Treasury, that their gatherings may be completed before the Probationer departs. When the Board declines payment, as we were constrained to do, more especially at one time when our funds were all but depleted, the innocent Probationer is the first and chief suf-

ferer, and were it not that he would suffer injustice, some bills pass which otherwise would be returned.

We are happy to notice that the work of Gospel maintenance and Gospel extension among our people is gaining a higher place. This is seen in the simultaneous working of the Home Mission and Supplementary movements, the former having to do chiefly with Gospel extension and the latter with Gospel support, and both appealing to the Christian principle and liberality of our people.

HOME MISSIONS AND PROGRESS.

Our Home Mission work is essential to the life and progress of the church, and is therefore of priceless value. It lies at the foundation of all our movements. "Give us Home Missions," says Dr. Hodge, "for without them Foreign Missions die," and the eminent John Angell James said a little time before his death, "If American Christians see their duty aright they will for some years to come give their main strength to the cause of Home Missions." If this was sound advice to the Republic of America, who can doubt that it is equally so to the Northern Dominion, and especially to the Maritime Provinces with their unsurpassed facilities for intercourse with the world. If we owe a great debt for our spiritual heritage to a race who did much with small means, shall we not with greatly augmented resources carry on their work? What would this land have been without the Gospel? What would it speedily become if the golden candlestick were removed and its light withdrawn? What apostles did for Judea and Phenicia and Syria and Asia Minor and Italy and Greece and Spain, what the Culdees did for the British Isles, what the earnest Christians of England, Scotland and Ireland are doing, what the American Christians are doing for their land—it behooves us to do for ours, to go up and possess it for the Lord Jesus.

We have an admirable system of free schools, for which under God we owe a debt of gratitude to the labours of our departed brother, the late Dr. Forrester, we have many schemes for reclaiming lapsed classes, and for ameliorating the condition of poor and afflicted ones, we have lectures, magazines, and religious newspapers, the colporteur and the written page, and the Lord multiply and bless them an hundred fold, but the weapon by which our Lord would win the world to purity and peace is the Gospel, and chiefly the Gospel made known through the foolishness of preaching. Let all good agencies be encouraged, but the preaching of the Gospel must ever hold a first place among these agencies and sanctify them all. The ex-