

OCTOBER, 1879.

## Moderator's Circular.

### HOME MISSION.

*To the Members and Adherents of  
the Presbyterian Church in Canada.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

It seemed good to the General Assembly of the Church, at its recent meeting in the City of Ottawa, to give instructions for the preparation and issue of a brief appeal to the Members and Adherents of the Church, setting forth the condition and requirements of the Home Mission Fund. The Assembly further enjoined every minister to read the appeal on some Lord's day before the end of the month of September, and to afford opportunity to every individual to contribute, by subscription, or in any other way that the Session or Deacons' Court may have previously resolved upon.

The Home Mission work of the Church, and the Home Mission Fund without which the work cannot be carried on, have been so often and so fully brought before the Courts of the Church and before the Congregations, that it may seem almost unnecessary to enlarge on the subject. But, in accordance with the instructions of the Assembly, we now desire briefly to set this matter before you, seeking to stir up your minds by way of remembrance, and, in dependence on the blessing of God, to draw forth your interest, your prayers and your liberal contributions in behalf of a work of such importance. Let us, therefore, ask your attention to a few considerations bearing on this subject.

With reference to the great and urgent duty of prosecuting with zeal and diligence the work of Home Missions, let us remind you of of the peculiar circumstances of our Church. The various branches of the Church have generally marked out with sufficient clearness in their several circumstances and in the

providential leadings of the Great Head of the Church, their peculiar mission and work in connection with the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Now, most evidently, the great work laid on us is what may be called Home-Mission Work. In the older countries the land is in a great measure fully occupied, the population is comparatively stationary, the people, generally, are within reach of the means of grace and the congregations remain from year to year with little or no change. But in our Dominion it is different. "There remaineth still very much land to be possessed." Our population is largely increased from year to year, our Congregations are rapidly multiplied; new Congregations and new Mission Stations are reported every year. Into some parts of our field, as Manitoba and the great North-West, thousands and tens of thousands are pouring every season; and surely it is our duty to supply them, or to help them to supply themselves, with the means of grace, for it is evident that for years these new settlers must have assistance. It is especially necessary that we sustain, and, if possible, extend the work in Manitoba and the North-West. Last year the amount of \$11,000 was expended in this section of the territory of our Church, and even a larger amount will be required this year. It must be borne in mind that, for the present, the support of Manitoba College is largely drawn from the Home Mission Fund; and, in the judgment of those most competent to form an opinion, it is essential to sustain this Institution.

That you may have some definite idea of the work, let us lay before you a few particulars gathered from the Home Mission Report laid before the Assembly. In the Western Section of the Church, the Home Mission Committee assisted in sustaining 144 Mission Fields, with 390 Preaching Stations, attended by 4,502 families and 4,729 communicants. The Stations themselves raised \$31,105.32 for their supply and for churches, while they received from the Committee \$20,704.94. Further,