

not have been in the position that we are to-day. And if we would grow as we have done we must continue to grow by the same means. The scattered families of Presbyterians perhaps in some scattered country districts are organized into Home Mission stations and supplied with preaching for a time by a catechist. They help liberally according to their means and get some aid from the Home Mission Fund. When they become stronger and a number of these stations are grouped together and an ordained missionary settled there, still receiving some aid. They grow stronger and are organized into a regular congregation, receiving some aid from the Augmentation Fund. They become stronger and need no further aid, and then in turn help to support others.

The Home Mission Fund is in need of larger contributions this year than ever before, as more of this work is being taken up. And in proportion as the work is vigorously prosecuted the Church will grow and become a greater power for good at home and abroad.

In the Maritime Synod there are seventeen ordained home missionaries, and forty-two catechists were at work during the summer months. All these fields where those men were laboring have contributed well, and in aiding them we are aiding those who heartily help themselves.

WHAT HAVE WE TO DO WITH THE NORTH-WEST?

"Much every way." Too often the idea prevails that if we attend to our department of the Home Mission, Augmentation and College work of the Maritime Provinces, we have done our duty, and that the Western Section of the church should look after the North-West. A few facts should be borne in mind.

1. The West has its own Home Mission field in Ontario and Quebec just as we have in the Maritime Provinces.

2. The North-West is a new region, removed by nearly a thousand miles of wilderness from Ontario, and is being occupied by settlers from the Maritime Provinces, Ontario, and Great Britain.

3. The countries contributing to the settlement of this new land have an equal right to follow them with the gospel and aid the infant settlements in maintaining ordinances until they become self supporting.

4. The three lines along which that help is needed are: the support of Manitoba College, the Augmentation of Ministers Salaries in weak congregations, and the support of Catechists and Missionaries in home mission stations.

5. Hitherto almost the whole burden of the vast work that has there been done has been borne by the Western section of the church. The amount expended last year alone in Home Mission work and Supplements in the North West being about *twenty-three thousand dollars*.

6. The Presbyterian Churches in Scotland and Ireland are aiding in this work. We in the Maritime Provinces are not.

7. In return for this we see a grand work being done. Where; a few years ago, our church had scarcely an existence, there are now 351 congregations and mission stations. In every considerable centre the gospel is regularly preached and as the centres grow with the development of future years there will be a strong and numerous church ready to forward the Lord's work in this and other lands.

8. The Assembly does not ask us to aid in the Home Mission work there. The West is bravely undertaking it, but we are asked to do a little in the support of Manitoba College, which is a centre of supply for the great and growing Home Mission field. Whatever we may think about the over supply of colleges in Ontario, that of Manitoba is a necessity.

9. A very small contribution, say from *five to ten dollars* and upwards from each congregation would be sufficient.

Such are some facts in connection with an institution built for that work. We are persuaded that it is from a lack of considering these facts that most of our congregations have thus far appropriated no part of their givings to Manitoba College.

Rev. D. M. Gordon, late of Winnipeg, was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, Dec. 27th. His parting charge to his congregation in Winnipeg contained an idea that we would heartily commend to all congregations, whether vacant or settled, viz: Be faithful in attendance at the prayer meetings, for on the prayer meeting depends to a large extent the spiritual progress of the congregation.