

and well done now for Home Missions, will, with God's blessing, be a theme of joy and thanksgiving to our children and our children's children. Let us not cease to pray and labour and give, for the evangelization of these Provinces in which God has cast our lot.

One of our agencies is the employment of Home Missionaries, chiefly probationers, although also including occasionally ordained ministers and catechists. We give the following list of the probationers and their distribution during this, the closing month of the year :—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROBATIONERS FOR
DECEMBER.

Mr. Donald Sutherland,	} <i>New Brunswick</i>	
“ Edward Archibald,		} <i>Presbyteries.</i>
“ Samuel Bernard,		
“ Howard Archibald,	} <i>P. E. Island</i>	
“ J. G. Cameron,		} <i>Presbytery.</i>
“ William Campbell,	} <i>Pictou Presbytery.</i>	
“ A. R. Garvie,		} <i>Truro Presbytery.</i>
“ ——— Watt,	} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>	
“ John F. Forbes,		} <i>Cape Breton.</i>
“ Simon Fraser,	} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>	
“ J. R. Bearisto.		} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>
“ J. Sinclair, <i>supply of Dr. Smith's Pulpit.</i>	} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>	
“ John W. Nelson,		} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>
“ Ebenezer McNab,	} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>	
“ John Forrest.*		} <i>Halifax Presbytery</i>

Here are fifteen missionaries. Some of those are employed in supplying congregations able and willing to remunerate them for their services; but they are all employed during a good proportion of their time in mission stations, where it is not expected that their labours can meet with any adequate pecuniary return. The demand on the funds is therefore continuous, and when our young men are truly doing the work of evangelists, they should surely be provided with “food and raiment,” and furnished with the means of travel to their destinations. If the ox was not to be muzzled while treading out the corn, no reasonable fault can be found with the extent of the payments made to our missionaries. Men of not half the education are receiving more, in nearly all mechanical employments, with no travelling expenses to defray. The receipts of many skilled mechanics is equal

* Ordination over St. John's church to take place during this month.

to those of two or three missionaries.

One-half of the income of the Home Mission Board is now expended in aiding the weaker and more newly formed congregations of the body. This appropriation is probably in all respects judicious and right. In every christian church the principle of the strong aiding the weak should have its appropriate expression, and in the church of the Lower Provinces it is capable of more extensive application.

If both departments of the work are to go on energetically, a sum of between 2,500 or 3000 dollars must be forthcoming annually. While asking those whom the Lord has blessed to keep these facts before their minds, it must be confessed that the *want of men* is by far the greatest difficulty in our way. We have a list of some 10 stations in New Brunswick, some of them capable, under zealous workmen, of being speedily turned into congregations, but we are only able to send thither four labourers.

If the Foreign Mission Board is calling the church to prayer the Home Mission Board may well join in the cry, and pray that God may send forth more labourers into the harvest, provide the means of support, and incline his people to offer it willingly. We trust that such of our young men as are absent in Canada, the United States and Scotland, may be touched by a conviction of the urgent need of their own native soil, and return to us in the fulness of the Gospel, to spend and be spent for Christ in the wide and destitute field of the Lower Provinces.

Our operations are now conducted in part by the aid of means furnished by worthy persons who have passed away from the church militant. Ordinary contributions should meet ordinary outlay, and such benefactions as those referred to, should be used to meet emergencies or to undertake special operations, which otherwise would be beyond our reach. To use them for ordinary revenue, defeats, to some extent, the design of the donors, which is evidently to *stimulate and extend* our Home Mission work, so that the gospel may be carried farther, may reach a greater number of souls, and thus the greatest revenue of praise