

in which the Presbyterian Church in Canada has made, and is making, it a definite part of its policy to aim at providing the ordinances of religion in outlying and sparsely populated districts in their earliest stages of settlement. I quite understand that other denominations with not less earnestness aim at carrying on this home mission work ; but I have an impression that the Presbyterian Church has more specially arranged to provide services even before the locality is financially able to support these ministrations. The people themselves are only expected to do a little—sometimes only a very small portion of the whole—but, of course, gradually, as the district gets more fully settled, the Church and the means for its maintenance are placed upon the ordinary footing. The importance of not allowing an interval to elapse during which settlers may get into the habit of being without religious ordinances is obvious ; and such being the case, one cannot but feel that in a much wider sense than that of merely denominational extension, this method of action forms a contribution to the well-being of the community as a whole.

And now, Mr. President and gentlemen, allow me once more to express my pleasure at being with you on this festive occasion. I desire to thank you for the previous invitations which I have received, and I regard it as one of the many advantages of our present stay in Toronto, which is so full of interest and satisfaction to Lady Aberdeen and myself, that it has given me the opportunity to which I shall always look back with peculiar pleasure, of joining with this representative and influential gathering of Scotsmen of Toronto on St. Andrew's day. (Prolonged applause.)