

Our Home Mission work is not easily set forth in detail. We cannot give a minute description or particulars respecting all the fields of labour cultivated, and it would be invidious to give prominence to a few. What our missionaries have said and done cannot be reproduced in the written report, but the assembled elders for whom this report is prepared, know well that they are engaged in the same kind of work, with the 70, with the apostles, and with the Son Jesus Himself, as a Preacher of the Kingdom of grace. Their office is truly apostolic, for they are sent forth by the church and by the Lord to search out the lost and the wandering in the dark and cloudy day, and to bring them back to the fold of the great and loving Shepherd. They have often to work on amidst great discouragement, not only without applause, but without much spiritual co-operation, and without satisfying evidence that the Lord's work is prospering in their hands, but we know that in the Home field are hearts which beat as loyally to the Great Head, and hands and tongues which serve as faithfully as any who stand in the high places of heathendom.

#### LABOURERS.

One year ago the Board had at its disposal ten Home Missionaries, with six English catechists or theological students, chiefly of the second and third years, by whom the different Presbyteries were furnished with a fair though certainly not a full supply during the summer season; but when the month of November arrived our force was greatly diminished. Several had accepted calls, and had been inducted as pastors of churches. Rev. Messrs. Logan, Hogg, Lawson and R. Cumming were thus withdrawn, and about the same time the students returned to prosecute their theological studies. At the close of the year we had but eight, and as one, Rev. E. McNab, was located at Mahone Bay, and another had accepted, with the Board's concurrence, an invitation to assist Rev. Mr. Thorburn with mission work in Bermuda, only six remained for the supply of all the vacancies of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

At our small and diminishing numbers we looked with fear and trembling, more especially as we were soon to be farther reduced by the settlement of Messrs. Glendinning and Chase. But Jehovah Jireh is the name of our King, and on the mount of the Lord we have all seen with wonder and joy that the Lord will provide. He has provided a goodly number of our vacant charges, with efficient, earnest pastors, and our Home Mission field is almost as well provided for as ever. Within the last two months Messrs. A. B. Dickie, J. F.

Layton, Edward and William Grant, and Mr. J. Burgess, have been licensed, and these, with three students from our own hall and two from Princeton whose services were tendered and accepted, make a noble accession of ten evangelists who have entered since the beginning of April.

#### LACK OF GAELIC PREACHERS.

The deepest regret of the Board has been their inability to meet to any appreciable extent the requirements of the Gaelic population of Cape Breton. Instead of two missionaries for each of the Presbyteries in that island, the Board during all winter and spring had not one to divide between the two. Only now in June are they receiving Mr. William Grant, Licentiate, to be followed in July by Mr. Samael Gunn, student of the second year. But what are these among so many? Either they can stay but a few Sabbaths in each place visited, or while some enjoy the luxury of a few months of the preacher's labours; others will be left in sorrowful silence and loneliness. The Board cannot pass from this subject without asking this Synod to take the existing great and clamant and increasing spiritual destitution in this most interesting portion of our Zion into serious and prayerful consideration. If in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, surely the earnest pleadings and counsels and joint efforts of the many members of this Synod will not prove wholly unavailing for good in the premises. The Board would humbly suggest: First, that the Synod should consider how it can make the best use of the Gaelic tongues belonging to it, during this the best season of the year for travel and for evangelistic work, tongues alas which for want of exercise, are fast losing their capacity and fluency and felicity for proclaiming the good news in the sacred and expressive language of old Caledonia. Secondly, That whosoever of the ministers, possessing of course the most excellent gift of speaking to the Highlanders in their mother tongue, may be sent on a mission to Cape Breton that they be instructed to set forth the claims of Christ's cause and church to the young men of piety on that island to qualify themselves for the work of preaching Christ to their own countrymen. Who can tell what results may flow from such appeals, our ministers and people meanwhile all helping by special prayer?

#### CATECHISTS AND PROBATIONERS.

In this connection it seems in place to report that the Presbyteries in the island give testimony to the value of the labours of the Gaelic catechists, and request continuance of their allowance. It affords equal satisfaction to hear as the Board