

from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that by the gigantic work of our Home Mission Committee, and the more modest work of the Augmentation Committee, our children and our friends are being made to feel at home everywhere, because provided with a Church home.

Who among you Scotch and North of Irel and men, or their descendants, can help believing in such work as this? You believe that the greatness of those old lands is bound up with their Churches and Schools. You believe that the success of yourselves in this land, and your compatriots throughout the world, rests on the solid ground of character moulded by the teachings of the Gospel. Many of you mourned the loss of Church privileges in the early years, and never rested till they were restored. Think brethren of all these things and set your seal to the faith that is in you. Come, help on this work, which is God's work and which, as we all believe, will be a blessing to Canada, and a boon to the 40,000 who shall have the privileges of the Gospel placed within their reach.

HOW RELATED TO OTHER MISSION EFFORTS.

There may be just a doubt in the mind of some of you that the means used to strengthen these weak congregations, may have detracted somewhat from the success of other lines of effort in which you are deeply interested.

I like to meet the man who has honest doubts on this point, for I know that when we have talked the matter over we shall be thoroughly agreed. If his specialty is Home Missions, we soon get to see that not for an hour did the Augmentation Scheme hamper Home Missions. Relief from the care of 100 congregations, or more, and large increase in revenue, are, as we are all glad to know, the result to Home Missions.

If his specialty is Foreign Missions, we cannot fail to agree. We have only to go to the Blue Book together, and we find that we stand shoulder to shoulder (broad shoulder, mine) and that the result of adding so many congregations to the Church's working power has been shown most of all in the help they have given to Foreign Missions.

He may be a specialist in College work, and yet we cannot disagree. For any Principal would tell him—"The hope of our Colleges, is the extension of the work." Many of our best men are coming from these weak charges, and we have so many young men preparing for the ministry, that it would be suicidal to contract the work.

I asked our friend, Dr. Warden, to look up this point, and he tells us, that investigating the case in the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, he found that congregations that had been, or are assisted by our Committee, are contributing \$10,000 annually to Missions, which, as he says, "speaks

volumes on behalf of the Augmentation Fund." Add the other Synods, and the probability is that between \$40,000 and \$50,000 have been contributed to Missions by such fostered congregations during last year,—seven-eighths of which amount, at least, went to help other Funds than ours. Let us all be glad together and, casting our doubts to the winds, let us help one another!

OUR PLAN AND PROSPECTS.

If you will turn up the December "RECORD" you may find some suggestions there. You will see that we have the work in the older Provinces wonderfully well in hand. The demands in congregations in Quebec, are all provided for. Some that were thought to be dying out, are even self-sustaining. The scattered and poor settlements in Northern Ontario, and those that were sore depleted in Western Ontario, by immigration, are also cared for as they should be.

Now we must move on and do more than well for the Far West. Wheat growing and ranching and gold-mining, are not the only purposes for which those vast stretches were committed to our care. Soul winning, rather, and character building, and inspiring men with a great thirst for purity and uprightness. These are the first care and duty of our Churches and Christian people; care committed to us by the Master, and blessed shall be the servant who at his coming shall be found faithful. We must move on; we need your help; larger help than we have had in the past, that we may lay hold of an ever increasing number of fields that have been fostered by the Home Mission Fund, and nurture them still further.

Through lack of means, we have narrowed the work out there beyond what should have been done. Now, let us say,—we cannot afford only to be interested in and make investments in gold mines. We must take shares in this higher and surer investment, and be able to say, "Yes" I looked into the case of Lake of the Woods, and Rossland, and Kaslo, and elsewhere in Kootenay and Cariboo. I took stock in sending missionaries and ministers to all these districts, and I am told on the best authority, that it is going to pay."

Again I mention the \$28,000 that is needed, and appeal to Presbyteries and to ministers to help us. Make our case known to your people. Our trust is in God and in you, and the people whom you may fill with light on this subject. I believe we shall be prospered well.

The Sabbath appointed of the General Assembly for the Collection on behalf of Augmentation, is Sabbath, 17th January, 1897.

On behalf of the Committee,
R. Campbell, Convener.
Renfrew, December 22nd, 1896.