

was some want in relation to our missionary operations. Vacant churches required looking after, new fields explored and churches planted, the claims of the Missionary Society properly presented, and last, though by no means least, a medium of communication between vacant churches and disengaged ministers secured. True, the General and Home Secretaries, as well as the Secretaries of the District Missionary Committees, did what they could to supply these necessities ; but it was impossible for them, with their pastoral engagements and wide separation from each other, to fulfil in measure and unity the requirements of the churches at large. To meet this want, the office was created at the Union meetings in Toronto, in June, 1874.

Now, the writer has from the first taken a deep interest in this work, and watched its progress closely, and therefore feels in a measure qualified to express an opinion as to the results. To say that it has been a perfect success, would be uttering what no man truly can about anything human ; for, alas ! everything man touches becomes tarnished—the Pope is the only infallible man in the wide world. But to say that it has fully met our expectations, and has become a means of usefulness which the denomination cannot dispense with without great loss, is fully justified. We have no doubt that a good proportion of the success which has been indicated as pertaining to the past five years, has been secured, directly or indirectly, through this agency ; and no one can peruse the printed Annual Reports of the Superintendent of Missions

without being impressed that not only are his labours abundant, but that the general results are also eminently satisfactory. Thriving churches have been planted in new fields ; feeble churches have had the means of grace continued ; disengaged ministers have found suitable pastorates ; evangelistic and revival efforts have been sustained ; funds collected for mission purposes, and the churches of the denomination encouraged in a way and measure which would have been utterly impossible without this department of work.

But it may be stated by some that the Province of Ontario reaps nearly all the benefit. This is true in a measure, but it is not the whole truth. Located as the agent is in Toronto, and the largest proportion of our churches being in the Province of which it is the capital, the greatest proportion of service must necessarily be rendered here. But when we consider our interests as one, and the body as a whole made up of its several parts, we see at once that there can be no benefit to a single church, wherever situated, without a corresponding benefit flowing to the whole denomination. Moreover, in Montreal we have the College, enabling our churches in that Province to employ the services of students both during the sessions and vacations. Were we in a position to place a similar missionary agency in the Maritime Provinces, we believe very great benefit would at once be derived.

With regard to the expense of this work, we boldly declare that it quite pays its own way. In the first place, every dollar that the agent receives for preaching and other services in this de-