

its vigorous prosecution will increase the revenues of all. The very marked success which has attended our Home Mission operations in Manitoba, where we have now 90 stations, and in the Muskoka District, where we have nearly 50, and the earnest pleadings of our representatives in these vast fields for additional missionaries, is not only cause for gratitude to God, but calls upon every lover of Zion, to put forth increased effort, in order to overtake the land that yet remains to be possessed. As there is at present a balance against the Fund of \$14,500, may I request that contributions in aid of our Home Mission Scheme be forwarded to Dr. REID at as early a date as possible.

WM. COCHRANE, *Convener.*

#### A BOARD OF PUBLICATION FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

*Mr. Editor:*—Permit me a few words in regard to the establishment of a Board of Publication by our Church. At the present day the Press, if properly directed, may be a very useful agent in Church work, and a more direct employment of it by the Presbyterian Church in Canada could scarcely fail to be a blessing. In the first place, a *Review*, issued quarterly, or oftener, in which suitable topics were discussed, would be of great service, especially to ministers and other office-bearers. In the second place, a *Weekly Paper*, giving the general and mission news of the Church, is now a necessity, in order that the people may be informed as to what the Church is doing. At present we have the *Monthly Record*, issued by the Church; and it is very cheap, and capital so far as it goes. We have also the *Canada Presbyterian*, published as a private enterprise, and a very good paper it is indeed. If these could be continued in one good weekly, issued under the direction, and with the approval, of the Church, and furnished to our people at the lowest possible rate, it could not fail to be more satisfactory. Then in the third place, we need *Sabbath-school Papers*, and *Lesson Helps*; and it would be a boon to the schools, if these were provided under more direct supervision of the Church. I am aware that we have some very good papers and helps supplied by private enterprise, in our Church; but those professedly non-denominational issues, which too often find their way into our schools, should be banished. There is no place given to the Shorter Catechism, and the chief aim of most of them seems to be, to avoid doctrine or definiteness, and hence they are without backbone or marrow; And lastly, we require

*Sabbath school Libraries*, and it is most desirable that the Church should take oversight of this matter more directly than at present. If books suitable for this purpose were published under the direction of the Church, there would be less difficulty in making selection, and objectionable books would not so likely find a place in the school library. Then, too, there are books which it would be well to have put into the hands of our people from time to time, and if the Church were in a position to publish such books, it is likely that more would find a place in our homes than as matters now stand. Now, it can scarcely be doubted, that a Board of Publication, organized and controlled by the Church, would have a sphere of great usefulness and power, in providing for the Church the things above named. As to the practicability of such a scheme, there would no doubt be difficulties at the outset, yet, in a few years, these would be overcome, and ere long, as in the case of the Board in the Presbyterian Church in the States, it would be self-supporting. Our Church has wealth enough to set such a scheme on foot, and talent enough to provide for all the issues above mentioned. Surely the Church would do well to look at this matter seriously.

Baltimore, Ont.

F. R. BEATTIE.

#### NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

MR. SIEVERIGHT reports his arrival at Prince Albert, after a journey of seventeen days from Winnipeg. For more than 300 miles he had no better seat than on top of her Majesty's mail-bags; but he had a fine view from his lofty perch, and was impressed with the greatness of the country through which he passed. Camping out at night, with the thermometer four below zero, and the wind blowing a hurricane, is quite romantic! The solitude was often oppressive. In 300 miles, from Fort Ellice to Duck Lake, only three houses on the trail. Surveyors have been busy dividing the land into sections for settlement. Some months must pass before he can say anything about Prince Albert Mission, but in the meantime he is resolved to do what he can to maintain the honour of the blue flag in the North-West. Other denominations are active. Ten priests went westward the previous week. In the field assigned to one Presbyterian missionary there is an Episcopalian bishop and four ministers. The whole Presbyterian force, for 600 miles of territory is, Mr. Duncan, at Edmonton, Mr. Sieveright, at Prince Albert, and Mr. McKay, who labours among the Indians.