

## Our Home Work.

**College Collection.** The General Assembly asks congregations that have not made other arrangements for the collection for colleges, to take it on the third Sabbath of September. There is little romance in connection with this work. It does not appeal to sentiment as do some of the other schemes, such as Foreign Missions, or even Home Missions, or French work; and yet, in its place it is as necessary as any of them. It is foundation work, hidden largely from view, but none the less necessary to the progress of our Church and her work both at Home and Abroad.

**A dark picture.** A Western missionary writes "Sabbath baths and saloons need to be handled here with discretion, for people are very sensitive. If..... were like the Nova Scotians and New Brunswickers who bring the Sabbath and Sabbath reverence with them, what a blessing it would prove to the country; but the....., who form a considerable part of the population, are neither Church-goers nor Sabbath-keepers, and, sad to say, in considerable numbers, do a good deal of drinking. And this influence on others is bad. As for Christian fellowship we have none, and a longing comes frequently over us for a community of true Christian folk. This want is our sorest trial. But, as in foreign lands, men find occasional intercourse with kindred spirits so may we. Were I able to attend meetings of the Presbytery it would not be so bad, but time, distance, and purse, forbid this—Pray for us." This is from a private letter, but it gives a glimpse of real life that the Church should see. Long neglect is responsible for the dark picture.

**W. H. M. S.** St. John, is preeminently the **St. John Pres.** Home Mission Presbytery of the Maritime Synod. A number of years ago the woman, chiefly of St. John City, organized a society for the purpose of supporting a travelling missionary who could keep an eye on the whole field, organize stations, get the people to work, preach and visit everywhere. For a number of years the position has been vacant, and the society has generously given its funds from year to year to aid weak congregations. Last winter Rev. James Ross, minister of St. Paul's, Woodstock, N. B., was appointed to this work, and the Society is now engaged in that for which it was originally formed. The Home Mission Committee express the hope that soon the Society will be able to assume Mr. Ross' full support. This field has not the popular interest and eclat that attaches to newer parts of the country with rapidly filling settlements, but it is none the less needy, and the good women like the skilful spinners at the tabernacle of old, have a mind to work: they are seeking to make their land God's dwelling place, a better land for their sons and daughters to live in.

## AN EVENING WITH REV. DR. ROBERTSON

INTENSELY interesting it was, not listening to a lecture, but in a quiet sitting-room. He is an enthusiast, full of Home Missions in the North-West, and one cannot be with him without catching more or less of his interest. From the rich store house of his own experience in dealing with all kinds of people, places, and circumstances, in a wide range of frontier life, he draws anecdote and illustration, varied, interesting, and, I had almost said, endless.

If the evening could only be transferred to paper—that is impossible. There is missing the intense personality, and besides, most of what was said is forgotten.

We have not asked his consent to publish anything. If asked he might refuse, but the substance, in outline, of a few incidents that remain in memory, are given, as illustrating some phases of frontier life, showing the need of sending missionaries, the necessity for churches and manse that the missionaries may have some place to preach and live, and the energy of the people in doing their part when they get a little help and encouragement.

Dr. Robertson was visiting a small community west of the Rockies. About \$300 was needed to complete a little church that had been started. What could they do? He preached to them and then told them that he would furnish one fourth of the amount from the Church and Manse Fund, if they would provide the remainder. A woman was present who in the surroundings of border life had almost lost the church going habit, but not her good will and energy. After the service she said, "I don't believe in allowing a man to stump us after that fashion without taking up his offer. Let us show him that we can do a thing or two." She sent to Vancouver, two hundred miles away, got strawberries and other delicacies; advertised an entertainment; men gathered from near and far; and she netted fifty-seven dollars, which was at once handed to the managers. The infection spread. The sum of \$225 was raised, the grant of \$75 secured, the church completed. The woman continues an active helper. The work has prospered.

We say nothing here of the method of raising money for the Lord by entertainments, either at home or among the exigencies of new western life, but mention the incident to show the energy that lies latent in so many places in that new land, and which when called forth in religious work is so fruitful of good.

In his visitations Dr. Robertson preached one Sabbath at an older station. On Monday forenoon a man called on him and said, "I heard you were here. I was bound if possible to see you before you leave. I live a number of miles distant in a new settlement. There are now twenty-four families. It is a hard community.