

REPORT.

1879-80.

AN accumulating debt, from 1875 to 1879, embarrassed the Central Board in its operations; not only preventing any extension of the work committed to its management, but painfully interfering with appropriations to the Missionaries already engaged in this branch of service in the Methodist Church of Canada. It became evident that a hindrance so formidable could not be endured any longer, consistent with the Christian zeal and spirit of sacrifice, always presumed to be prepared for active exercise when the emergencies of the cause of Christ call for their manifestation. In accordance with this conviction a large gathering of influential friends in Toronto resolved upon the adoption of a plan to liquidate this debt, and raise an additional sum for the extension of Missions and to assist in the enlargement of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund. The various Conferences throughout the Dominion, and that in Newfoundland, have most liberally sanctioned the movement, so that, with devout gratitude to Almighty God, this Fifty Sixth Report of the Methodist Missionary Society will be distinguished amongst all others in recording the free-will offerings of our devoted people, who have so generously and willingly contributed to free the Treasurers from their weighty obligations.

The Annual Reports from the Mission Stations show evidences of spiritual growth and prosperity. Whilst in some instances financial temporary inconvenience has been endured, personal toil for the perpetuity of the means of grace and the material welfare of the Missions has been rewarded with sound conversions, fruitful enjoyments, and the improvement and erection of sanctuaries and parsonages throughout the whole field of Christian work.