

neglected, and they will grow up the same strong men who will of necessity wield an influence in their land, but if Godless, their influence will be for evil, and their strength will be lost to the church, to righteousness, and to God.

There is still another aspect of Home Mission work that may be worth a thought. Most people like to provide in some way for their children. Some lay up money for them, and it often proves a curse. Others try to get comfortable homes for their children, and when this is done life's aim is largely accomplished. There is one way of making provision for those who come after us that is certain to prove an unmixed good. In making such provision we cannot err, and that is by providing them a good land to live in. A free land, a land of righteousness and truth, a land bearing in every part of it and upon all departments of its work, the impress of the Bible; a land filled with religious life. One of the best investments we can make for those who come after us is to expend our means in providing for them a good country to live in, and the surest way, the only way of accomplishing this is by bringing every hamlet and home from the rocky cliffs of the Atlantic to the pine crowned hills of the Pacific under the influence of the Gospel of Christ.

The Home Churches send to Canada the best immigrants that come, and they do not forget them when they come. They contribute, as is fitting, to aid our Church in the work of supplying them with the gospel. The Free Church of Scotland recently sent £200 to our Home Mission Fund, and the Established Church, £190 to Manitoba College. This Home Mission work in the new fields that are filling up so rapidly must be pursued on the principle of making hay while the sun shines. Our Church has lost very largely in the past, especially in the older provinces, by neglecting to take it up in time. The western part of Nova Scotia, and many places in New Brunswick, were originally settled largely by Presbyterians, which to-day are the strength of other churches. In parts of Ontario, the same is in measure true. But where the loss is loss indeed, is in the Province of Quebec, where, in many places, settlements of Scotch Presbyterians, left without the Gospel, have become, in language and religion absorbed in the surrounding mass of French Romanism. But if these churches did not take them up, what then? They would soon lapse into home heathenism, into neglect of all religion, and in large measure, of morality as well. One motto that should be inscribed on the Home Mission banner of every Church, with regard to new settlements is, "What thou doest do quickly."

AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

WESTERN SECTION.

A GOOD deal of time was devoted at last Assembly to a consideration of the Augmentation scheme. The committee then reported a deficit of \$4,287. Instead of taking action looking towards a reduction of the grants, the Assembly instructed its Moderator to issue a pastoral address, "to be read in all the congregations of the Church," setting forth the great importance of the Scheme, and urging the necessity of more liberal contributions towards its maintenance.

The Moderator did so. It would be interesting to know in how many congregations of the Church his address was read. An important question is, What has been the result?

The Moderator informed the Church that there was required this year \$9,525 more than was received last year. From the receipts of the treasurer, as reported in this number of the Record, \$15,676 had been got up to 5th March, as compared with \$15,370 on the corresponding date of last year. In other words, fully ten months of the Church year have gone by and the increase of contributions reported is only \$300, leaving little room to hope that from the congregations of the Church the additional \$9,200 will be got in March and April.

In an appeal recently issued on behalf of a particular scheme by one of the Scottish Churches, among reasons given for the backward state of the fund are the following, and they are here given because there is ground to fear that they are present and operate among ourselves. :-

1. Low rate of giving on the part of those to whom God has given the ability in a large measure.
2. Congregations resting on the contributions of a few wealthy members.
3. Ministers not duly enforcing the claims of the Fund from the pulpit, so as to tell on the consciences and hearts of the people.
4. The low views of some ministers and office-bearers, of the duty of the people towards the fund, and of their ability to contribute - leading them to justify or excuse a low rate of giving, and to intercept or blunt the force of representations and appeals.

The writer of this heard the other day of the minister of a well-to-do congregation complimenting his people in a most fulsome manner on their generosity towards the work of the Church, while as a matter of fact their total contributions to the whole of the schemes of the Church was a miserable pittance, - less than one-half of the average contribution of our people to missions, and far below that of adjoining congregations, as some at least of the people well knew.

Circulars may be scattered by the thousand, and earnest speeches may be made in Assemblies and Presbyteries and at missionary meetings, but unless those who are at the head of affairs in each congregation bring the claims of the fund before the people with infectious warmth and earnestness the result will be far from encouraging.

There is yet time for a hearty, vigorous effort on the part of congregations and Bible classes and Sabbath-schools so as to secure the amount yet required before the end of April, when the books close for the ecclesiastical year. W.