

Communications.

HOME MISSION SCHEME.

Toronto, 14th September, 1863.

My dear Sir,—I take the liberty of asking you to insert in the *Record* the regulations proposed by the Special Committee on Home Missions, and now sent to Presbyteries for their consideration.

The Committee have acted of course in accordance with the deliverance of Synod, approving of a General Committee and a Central Fund.

These regulations, I may be allowed to say, are framed upon the principle, that, whilst it is desirable to have a centre of operations, and uniformity of action, and, consequently, far greater efficiency, yet all home missionary work should be, at any rate in the present circumstances of the church, under the superintendence of the Presbyteries of the bounds. It will be observed, therefore, that they are very simple and general in the meantime, merely indicating the course of action which ought to be pursued by the Committee, in order to stimulate the formation of new stations—to raise promising stations into the position of regular sanctioned charges, and thus to build up and strengthen the church throughout the land. It appeared to the Committee unwise to enter into minute details at present, inasmuch as if the general principles and leading features of the scheme are approved, the experience of each succeeding year will guide the church as to the lesser parts of the plan. In this way, legislation will be all the more likely to be satisfactory.

The Committee are impressed with the conviction, as they believe the whole of their brethren are, that the Home Missionary field constitutes the great business of the church, and that for this, the sympathies, and resources of her people should be drawn out as largely as possible. Hence the necessity of some such uniform scheme as the one proposed, for the purpose of presenting, year by year, correct and intelligible statements of what the church is doing, and of the claims of the cause upon their prayers and liberality. If we wish people to give intelligently and generously for any particular part of the church's operations, we must not only tell them that the Church is engaged in it, but we must give them information as to what the church is doing with the means supplied—the work to be overtaken and the progress that is made. The church has been much strengthened by the union now so happily accomplished. And the Committee believe that if this scheme is prosecuted wisely and energetically, means will be largely and cheerfully provided, to further the good work, to supply divine ordinances to the people in new settlements, and thus to increase and extend the church.

Yours, very sincerely,

ALEXANDER TOPP, *Correspondent*.

The object of this Committee shall be to promote and extend the Home Missionary operations of the church, to receive the funds which may be raised