

Our Home Work.

An illustration of what Home Mission Work did not do, is seen in Lower Quebec, where McPhersons, McNeils, McDonalds, and Grants, are common names, but all lost in the French tongue and Romish worship. Bands from Scotland, many of them Protestants, were settled there, but no missionary came, they inter-married with the French, lost their language and religion and their descendants are called French. Had they been followed with the Gospel, Quebec might have been far other than it is to-day.

Rev. Dr. Campbell's paper on Augmentation, in this Record, as did that in last issue, shews that Rev. D. J. Macdonnell's mantle has fallen upon a worthy successor. His two articles shew that the new convener has a mind to work, and ability and power to do that work well; and that this department of our Church work is to be kept well to the front. Almost equally to East and West, these papers apply, and they should be helpful in raising our Church to a grander ideal of Life and Work for Country and for Christ.

The "Home Work" of the Churches in Canada and in the U. S. A. is much the same; scattered mission fields in the East, and a great, fast filling, West, to be kept and won for Christ; and the following words of a writer in the States are well fitted to our own H. M. Work.

"The cause of Home Missions is the cause of Christian patriotism. We must not suffer it to be crippled. Even through hard times this work must go on. Our Church is devoted to this cause and she still has money to save it from disaster. Let us bring this cause to God. This is His country and He will help."

AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

PRESBYTERIAN CH. IN CANADA, 1896-97.

As the year draws to a close the time is opportune for making a statement and appeal on behalf of the Augmentation Fund.

To very many of us the out-standing feature of the year must be the loss sustained through the death of Rev. D. J. MacDonnell, to whom, under God's blessing, the Scheme owed so much in the past. The Committee have to thank our ministers and people, that they recognized what was fitting in the sad circumstances, and enabled us to end the year, in which our beloved Convener died, with a small balance on hand.

It has been suggested to us, and one is tempted to accept of the suggestion, that this year's contribution should be a marked one, and that out of respect to the memory of him who did his work so well.

I am persuaded, however, that could he

speaking with us again, he would say:—"No, show our people, rather, that this is work that should be done for Christ's sake, as he appeals to us through His needy brethren; show them that the Redeemer's Kingdom is being extended and upheld through this work; show them that our beloved land is being made a better country to live in through our efforts; ply them with the highest motives and lay the work upon the consciences of our people, and then you will not fail to reach and arouse and bring to your help a great number of the willing hearted ones. So you will be carried through and in time every year will be a marked year."

Such, as I hear it, would be his message, and it is on these grounds that I base this appeal especially, not doubting that the hearts of our people are right with God, and so being assured that they will do all work that can be commended to them as work for God and for the goodly land which God has given them for a possession.

A RETROSPECT.

The historic aspect of our work is known to many of you, but it is worthy of being repeated until all our people know it, and rejoice in knowing it.

Only thirteen years have passed, and yet—the Scheme has in that time given impetus or help to 450 congregations. Think of it? More than half of the congregations in the Western Section of the Church, encouraged, helped onward, through our work. Add to this that 261 of those congregations are self sustaining to-day, 21 of these having reached that status during the past year.

These figures tell us of the great results reached, under the devoted leadership of him who is gone, and I may speak of these matters more fully than he might have spoken: and so I say:—These results are simply marvellous, and our Church should be stirred with thankfulness that God has done such great things through us. We simply did not realize that these were the great things of which he spoke to us, and for which he pleaded with us. It was work done for God and our country's weal, done as with the strong right hand of a cunning workman.

THE PRESENT POSITION.

On the Committee's list to-day are 140 congregations, in which there are well nigh 40,000 souls. Our help assures to them a settled minister, regular Sabbath services, Sabbath Schools, and all the other equipments and privileges which are treasured and rejoiced in by the strong and well organized congregations of our Church.

Word comes back from sons in the far West, which brings joy to Eastern homes:—"We found our own Church planted here, and were soon found out and welcomed by the minister. It made us feel at home and think of home." So is it all along the line,