

porting, and of great advantage to the Church. One of the first-fruits of them was a contribution of £500 to the Endowment Fund from an English gentleman holding property in a district where a temporary mission was efficiently conducted. The object of this class of missions is to prevent the neglect of public worship at places in which the population, though generally small, becomes for a time so much increased as to require special provision of the means of grace.

"During the past year the following churches formerly aided by the committee have been endowed—viz., Froickheim, with a grant of £25; Gartmore, £40; Inveriel, £35; Renton, £35; Rosehall, £25; South Church, Kirriemuir, £42, 10s.; Wells of Ythan, £40—thus relieving the committee's funds of the annual sum of £242, 10s. Skipness, on the Highland parishes branch, is now in court, and decree of disjunction and erection is expected shortly. This will relieve the committee to the further extent of £40 a year. That they are in need of the relief will appear from the fact that since last Assembly they voted £260 for the following new stations, viz.:—Elchies, Knockando; Colliston, St. Vigeans (formerly conjoined with Auchmithie); Blackhill, Peterhead; Jamestown, Bonhill; St. Bernard's Church, Glasgow; and Brown Street Chapel, Blairgowrie. The committee also added ten stations to the home evangelisation branch, to which they allocated £300. Nothing can be closer than the connection between this scheme and the Endowment Scheme. The Home Mission prepares for the endowment, and the endowment completes the work of the Home Mission. Without the Home Mission, the Endowment Scheme would have a very limited field of operations, and without the relief afforded by the Endowment Scheme, the funds of the Home Mission would be quite insufficient to meet the spiritual destitution for which the Church is bound to provide. The relations of the two committees are as friendly as possible, and they afford each other valuable assistance and support. It is most cheering to contemplate the marked success of many recently endowed Churches which a few years ago, but for the Home Mission grants, must have been closed. They have now large and increasing congregations, and annually transmit munificent contributions to the schemes of the Church. With regard to the deliverance of last General Assembly, 'That the committee be instructed to consider the best means of uniting the energies of Scottish churches, in conducting measures of home evangelisation, and that they be empowered, if they shall see cause, to confer either with individual ministers or with accredited representatives of other churches, as to the best course to be pursued,' the committee have, from various causes, experienced not a little difficulty in proceeding to deal with it. They are fully alive to the vast importance of the subject thus remitted to their consideration, and they deeply regret the great waste of energy, in many instances, through the occupation of the same territory by rival Churches, agreeing substantially in doctrine and worship; but it is easier to see and lament this evil than to devise an effectual remedy for it. In order, however, that they may be placed in circumstances to deal more advantageously with the question, and in order to promote the general interests of their scheme, they would respectfully crave the General Assembly to empower the Home Mission Committee to obtain, through the Presbyteries, or otherwise, and further to enjoin all the Presbyteries and ministers of the Church to furnish to the committee, as soon as possible, full particulars—(1) Of the population of each parish within the bounds; (2) of the number of sittings supplied in parish churches, or in chapels connected with the Church of Scotland, in each parish; (3) of the sittings in churches and chapels belonging to other Christian denominations; (4) of the number (or an approximate estimate of the number) of sittings occupied in these churches; (5) of the number (or an approximate estimate of the number) of the population in each parish not attached to any Church; (6) of what steps are being taken to supply existing spiritual destitution. A list of the committee's stations is appended to this report. In the cases of all chapels with