

and populous provinces in an inky blackness and called us "heathen," or even declared us "unexplored," but "uninhabited territory" created an amazement that lingered long on the borderland between imagination and amusement. Sparse our population may be, Sir, in many parts, and for years must continue so, but in this good land which the Canadian Church is called upon to go up and possess for Christ, stretching as it does from sunny sea-girt Prince Edward Island and from Newfoundland's misty coasts across four thousand miles to where Pacific's waves leave Vancouver's shores and Klondyke's ridges hold in frosty grip the precious ore, peopled already with nigh six million souls, there is, from one extreme to the other, scarce a considerable stretch of territory in which from far off fishing station or from quiet agricultural settlement, from thriving hamlet or from busy mining camp there does not come a call—a call to which no Church can afford to turn an unheeding ear, a call for the Word of Life and for the Means of Grace. The work in this new land is far different in detail and method from that with which many in this Alliance are familiar, under the name of Home Missions. Here the work is not the recovery of the masses, the rescuing of the lapsed, or the establishment of Missions in the centres of congested populations; it is, if I may so call it, the more inspiring and vastly more hopeful work of laying the foundations of future life that shall exclude such conditions, it is the pre-empting, in the name of our Lord, lands but newly opened, the occupying by pioneer work of soil just now ready for tillage.

The importance of this work, I desire in the moments at my disposal, to emphasize in the light of three considerations.

First.—*The Boundless Possibilities of the Field and its Evident Destiny in the Future.*

Transcontinental railways and luxury in travel have rendered it less necessary than formerly to expatiate on the extent and resources of the west, but even yet there is room, especially in the Church, for larger appreciation of what these resources mean. That such should be necessary on the part of others, I cannot wonder at, when I remember