

will bud and blossom and bear fruit, and add to the life and vigor of the good olive that propagates and shields them.

3. Neglect of our Home Mission work is not only suicidal, but wrecks the plans, so dear to the hearts of all God's people, because the object of them was always on the heart of their Saviour, carefully laid for the evangelization of the world. Feeble indeed must be the hand that we extend to benefit the heathen, if our home life is not kept more vigorous. We cannot year by year expand in our liberality to Foreign Mission work, as we ought to do, as our Foreign Missionaries are persistently and powerfully urging us to do, if we are not careful to foster the power to give, by increasing our strength at home. If we can organize and build up three hundred congregations instead of the two hundred we now have—and by proper attention to our home work we can do that and more—is it not plain that our Foreign Mission work will be much more effective? Every lover of the cause of Foreign Missions ought therefore to be an earnest advocate of Home Missions. They cannot stand apart. They rise or fall together.

4. Patriotism pleads for Home Missions. Do we love our land? Canadian Presbyterians are loyal to their country. They wish to see her great and prosperous. They know well what it is that exalts a nation. Material resources, commercial activity, intellectual eminence, social order—even if all these were attainable without righteousness,—could never make us truly great. "The righteous Lord loveth righteousness." To be good is to be great. Can a people be good without a Gospel? Witness the ruinous socialism growing rampant in civilized Europe, and America, where the Gospel is not preached and believed. The Spirit of the Lord is the author of virtue, and the word of God is His instrument. He makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word an effectual means of enlightening and saving men. Every lover of his country must therefore be zealous in Home Mission work.

5. Loyalty to Christ puts us under obligation to attend to Home Missions. We are soldiers. What are our marching orders? Our General said that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem." All nations must have the Gospel but Jerusalem must not be left without it. So said Christ to His early disciples. What Jerusalem was to the Jews, our Home land is to us. Could Paul have satisfied himself that his duty was done, by going to Rome, if, as opportunity presented itself to him, he left Jerusalem sinners without the truth? Can we justify ourselves for neglecting New Brunswick or Cape Breton, or any other portion of our Synod, by attending to the wants of the New Hebrides or Trinidad? Is this beginning at Jerusalem? Surely the Saviour would say, "This ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone." Devotion to Christ then calls to this work with hearty earnestness. Let us gird on our armor. Let us put down the enemies of truth and goodness that stalk abroad in our own land, by our weapons of spiritual warfare, that we may occupy in full force the lands of heathendom, which we have invaded. A true revival at home will make us triumphant abroad. Let us bring all the tithes into the storehouse and enjoy the outpouring of an abundant blessing in all our spheres of work.

In the name of the H. M. Committee.

JOHN McMILLAN, Convener.

P. M. MORRISON, Secretary.

### Executive of the Foreign Mission Committee.

A letter was read from Mr. Wilkie stating that he found the work in good condition upon his return, but that some of the anxious ones amongst the Mangs had grown cold.

Mr. Russell is away touring amongst the villages, towns and cities where there are no settled missionaries.

A letter from Mr. Gauld was read showing the happy relations that exist between the Mission and the civil authorities—all of which helps to secure justice to native Christians, who often need such sympathy and protection from their enemies. An interesting translation of a letter from A. Hoa to Dr. MacKay was read, describing the Christian treatment given by the native Christians, in the Margaret Machar Chapel, to a shipwrecked crew on the East Coast—where twenty-five years ago the crew would have been murdered and the ships plundered. The Captain presented the chapel with a bell, lamp and mirror as an acknowledgement. It will be remembered that every chapel is a preacher's home which will explain the value of these articles.

Letters from Honan report all quiet,—indeed the natives are more than usually cordial in order to avoid complications with other nations at this time.

Mr. MacKenzie has joined Messrs. Grant and MacGillivray—leaving Mrs. Mackenzie at Pang Chuang, ninety miles north of Chu-Wang—with the brethren of the American Mission who have always been kind and helpful to our missionaries. Our missionaries are in every letter deploring the irreparable loss of Miss Graham and Mrs. Malcolm, and are wondering when others will take up woman's work. There is one village where there are a number of women interested, and whom Miss Graham promised to visit and teach when she returned from the coast. Alas! What is to become of them now? How soon will a successor be sent? Even if she started to-day some time must elapse before she can teach.

Mr. MacGillivray has purchased a valuable property in Chang-te-fu, a city about thirty miles west of Chu-Wang. This city is the most important in its district, it is on the Great Road to Peking, and only a mile from a river navigable to Tientsin. A projected railroad will touch it in the future. The property is leased for fifty years—with a clause requiring that if the landlord or heir ever resume possession they should pay the Mission both the purchase money and the value of any houses that may be erected in the interval. That is of course equal to a sale, but the Chinese like the word *lease* better than *sale* because it hides from them the fact that they are parting with their patrimony forever. The *lease* also has this advantage that it does not require the Mandarin stamp to make it legal, which is both expensive and difficult to get.

The property has been handed over in July, the Mandarin having in this case required the landlord to do so,—one good effect of the war—the Mandarin's influence being usually exercised in the opposite direction.

Messrs. Goforth, Slimmon and Malcolm are contemplating sailing for Vancouver on the 4th March. That is of course somewhat conditional on developments in the East. Mr. Postwick, our agent at Tientsin has arrangements by which a messenger will reach Honan in the shortest time possible should the British Consul think it necessary for our missionaries to leave.

Dr. Webster is well and working away at Haifa. He has about thirty patients a day at the dispensary. He would have many more but that he refuses to give medicines without charge—which is done at three other dispensaries in the town. He thinks much harm is done in Palestine by free dispensing. Of course there are deserving poor there as well as here, and exceptions are made.

Dr. Thomson is doing excellent work amongst the Chinese in Montreal. He has already thirteen schools organized where Chinese are taught. They have rallied about him in a most encouraging way. He goes to Ottawa soon to organize there. The Chinese are coming—sixty or seventy new ones came into Montreal within two or three weeks.

Mr. Newmark is feeling discouraged in the Jewish work in Montreal and has offered his resignation. He feels a want of sympathy.

Dr. Smith is at Clifton Springs and his health is gradually improving.

Mr. Winchester reports good progress in Canton.

Mr. Colman has been visiting the Chinese schools in New Westminster and Vancouver where they have had a series of very encouraging meetings.

In Alberni the work goes on hopefully. The plans for the new Home have been approved by the Indian Department, and it will as soon as possible be built. Mr. Swartout has moved out to Uclulalt, another Indian centre. The Executive is negotiating with Mr. J. W. Russell as teacher at Uclulalt.

There were several applications before the Executive of men ready to go. How shall they go, except they be sent? Some of them are ready to go single—on small salaries—they feel they *must* go. Would that the Church had the same feeling. The receipts from congregations are \$5,000 less than at this date last year.—R. P. MacKAY.

Writing from Constantinople under date of November 19th, Rev. Dr. Elias Riggs says: "To-day is the eighty-fourth anniversary of my birthday, and I have entered upon the sixty-third year of my missionary life, having sailed from Boston for Greece in October, 1832." This venerable and beloved missionary is still engaged, heart and soul, in the work to which he gave himself more than threescore years ago, and he writes in a clear, strong hand: "I have had my trials, but I can say that divine goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life hitherto, and I am sure will follow me through the remainder of my days."