

tributions from lack of religious, which means missionary interest in our several churches? or is it possible that our contributors have not yet outgrown local attachment sufficiently to prompt them to help a whole dominion with as much zeal as they would the churches in their more immediate province? The former union was dissolved to suit, shall we say pander to this feeling, and we have now to prove by our receipts whether Christianity has yet sufficiently enlarged the fraternal horizon of our congregations. It may be however, that the zeal of our excellent missionary executive in its work and effort, has caused them to overstep their pecuniary ability or over estimate the power or generosity of the congregations. But whatever may be the cause of our poverty our condition is not a happy one, neither is the position of our worthy executive by any means enviable, for they have not only felt themselves compelled to decapitate the grants made to missionaries but also to decrease the number of churches receiving help. We in the lower provinces before the union have not felt enough interest in the missionary concerns of Ontario and Quebec to watch the state of affairs there sufficiently to learn whether this condition of things is anything like normal in that part of Canada. It is certainly new to us here. While we collected our money and conducted our own financial affairs we seldom got into debt beyond a reasonable probability of speedily getting out again. We have occasionally had a surplus, but whenever a deficit was reported we always fancied we saw an almost hidden twinkle in the eye of the happy Treasurer and which we interpreted to mean that he knew how it would be paid, although it was just then impolitic to explain. Missionary "Confederation found the churches in N. S. and N. B. all supplied with pastors or ministers, and all the missionary churches satisfactorily helped in pastoral sustentation, and that without much difficulty, whereas there are now, I believe four churches then receiving aid, now either unsupplied or aid withdrawn. We blame no circumstances or union for this, but state what we believe to be facts, yet let me venture most deferentially to make in conclusion a suggestion, which I think, if acted upon might be helpful to our Missionary Society in these provinces, viz: The re-establishment of the local Missionary Committee who would have special regard for and personal knowledge of all parts of the local mission field and who would, in consultation with and through the Missionary Superintendent advise the Executive Committee as to its action with regard to particular mission churches under their consideration. It is impossible for the Executive to have such a thorough knowledge of the needs, requirements, temperaments or indelible peculiarities of churches so

remotely located and such a committee would materially help our excellent Missionary Supt., who with all his acuteness and perception may not see everything with the eye of one living and working continually in their midst. Pardon this encroachment upon your space, and believe me,

Yours truly,

J. SHIPPERLY

### OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY'S LETTER.

MONTREAL.

In the morning a missionary meeting was conducted by him in Calvary church, assisted by J. P. Gerrie, (student). The congregation was large and was rendered especially interesting by the presence of a number of students, who desired to hear what their old schoolfellow had to say about African Missions. His task here was a simple one. He had merely to bring before the people the claims of the W. C. A. field. The flame of missionary interest had already been enkindled in the hearts of the people, by the devoted and energetic pastor (Sec. Hill) and fanned to a mild heat by an efficient ladies board, indeed it is whispered that this church may send one of its members to the foreign field at no distant date.

ZION CHURCH.—In accordance with a long standing promise a portion of the day was devoted by him, to this old historical church, which did so much for missions in the past.

In the afternoon he visited the Sunday School, and was delighted at the signs of life and progress that were evinced there. Even though the growth is at present somewhat retarded by the smallpox scourge, yet there was present the largest attendance there has been for the past four years. One pleasing feature of this school is the number of scholars in attendance who are just at that age when it is most difficult to keep them at the Sunday school, and very desirable that they should be kept there for their own good, and that of the church. The scholars are engaged raising a certain sum for our mission and were curious to see the missionary elect.

In the evening, student Macallum gave him assistance in conducting the service. Looking round on the assembled congregation, he could not but ask himself the question, Is this the church that was declared but a short time ago to be dead and buried, leaving nothing to its friends but the memory of its early glory and its later sad decline? If so, the first resurrection is to it a matter of actual experience, and under the fostering care of the faithful pastor (Mr. McIntyre,) it is rapidly gaining strength and moving forward to a new era of christian usefulness. The pastor received the missionary with the utmost kindness and every assurance that