



## OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent

DEAR SIR,—Will you find room for the Constitution and By-laws of our Foreign Missionary Society, as they were finally passed at a meeting of the Board held in Kingston on the 3rd of November last? I have already called attention to Section Second of the By-laws regarding the nomination of Directors by District Associations and other Congregational organizations in B. N. A. and N. F., and I trust that the Secretaries of these will not neglect to bring the matter before them in good time, that we may have a fair representation on our next board of Directors.

We hope, too, that the churches are not neglecting to make at least monthly collections for foreign missions. The missionary concerts on the first Wednesday in the month should be productive of much good. We know that some churches are scarcely observing it. May it soon be universally devoted to this great object. Remember that one-quarter dollar per annum from the members of our churches in Canada alone, would give us 1500 dollars for foreign missions, and with this amount we could begin. Will we not have so much at least before June next?

Yours truly,

T. HALL,

Kingston, Dec. 9th, 1881.

Sec.

### CONSTITUTION.

#### I. NAME.

Congregational Foreign Missionary Society of British North America.

#### II. OBJECTS.

To spread the knowledge of the Gospel among the heathen and other unenlightened people.

#### III. MEMBERS.

Persons subscribing two dollars annually, ministers and other representatives of congregations contributing ten dollars annually, shall be members. Every benefactor making a donation of forty dollars or more at one time shall be a life member.

#### IV. ANNUAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the Society shall be held annually to appoint Officers and Directors; receive reports; audit accounts, and to deliberate on any measures which may promote the object of the Society. At such meeting all matters proposed shall be determined by the majority of the members present.

#### V. BUSINESS.

Directors are empowered to subdivide into committees for managing funds, making reports and such like, but no proceedings of these committees shall be valid till ratified at an ordinary meeting of the Board. Not less than three Directors, exclusive of the officers of the Society, shall constitute a meeting of the Board for the despatch of business. The Treasurer and Secretary shall be *ex-officio* entitled to meet and vote with the Directors of the Society.

#### VI. FUNDS.

All funds arising from donations, legacies, subscriptions, collections or otherwise, shall be lodged by the Treasurer, as soon as collected, with the Banks of the Society.

#### VII. POWER TO REVISE.

The foregoing Regulations shall be subject to such modifications as the members of the Society at their annual meeting may from time to time think proper.

SECTION FIRST.—By-Laws of the Directors.

##### 1. Anniversary Services.

The annual meeting of the members may be held at the same time and place as the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec. All arrangements for the meeting shall be made by the Directors.

##### 2. Annual Meeting of Directors.

A special meeting of the Directors shall be held previous to the annual meeting of the members, to prepare the list of Directors, Committees, and Officers for the ensuing year, to be submitted at the annual meeting, as well as to transact any other business connected with the Society.

##### 3. Anniversary Services.

Missionary sermons shall be preached on the fourth Sunday in June, in the churches open to the Society's use, and such other services shall be held as the Society may from time to time appoint.

SECTION SECOND.—Directors of the Society.

1. Number. The number of Directors shall not exceed fifty.

##### 2. Nomination of Directors

Directors shall be nominated by District Associations, or other Congregational organizations where Associations do not exist—in British North America and Newfoundland. All such nomination shall be reported to the meeting of Directors immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the members; and any deficiency in the nomination list, whether caused by the failure of District association or other organizations to nominate or otherwise, shall be supplied by the meeting. Vacancies occurring in the Board may be filled at any time.

SECTION THIRD.—Meetings of Directors.

All meetings of the Directors for the transaction of the business of the Society shall be held in such places and at such times as may be agreed upon by the Directors.

SECTION FOURTH.—Officers of the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Should any of the offices become vacant during the year by resignation or otherwise, the Board shall have power to elect others to fill the vacancies. Should the President and Vice-President be absent from the meeting, the Board may elect a chairman for the occasion.

## Obituary.

### REV. JAMES HOWELL.

Concerning the late Secretary and Agent of our Indian Mission, who, as stated by the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, passed away on the 5th Nov., might be written a volume which by a good biographer would be made both edifying and interesting. He was a man of large experience in various departments of Christian operation as conducted in

different parts of the world. He also possessed undaunted energy and perseverance in doing the work of the Master, and that from early life to within a few hours of his death, which took place when he had reached his 73rd year. Our departed brother was, we believe, born in the South-west of England, and was blessed with the guidance of godly parents. His father was either a minister or an occasional preacher of the Gospel. In early youth, it was the ruling desire of our late friend to be employed in Christian work; and in order that he might be theologically prepared for the ministry, he placed himself, in company with several other students, under the tuition and training of the late venerable and scholarly Rev. Richard Cecil, of Turvey, near Bedford, England. After the completion of his course of studies, he was accepted by the London Missionary Society as one of their agents, and sent as a missionary to labour in the Island of Jamaica. He occupied that station a few years, and left by medical advice on account of the weakly state of his wife's health—but not before the death of his first, and at that time, his only daughter. On his return to England, he was appointed by the North Bucks House Missionary Association to a new station opened at Brill, twelve miles from the city of Oxford. Here he laboured for a longer time than he did at any other place during his ministerial life, and here his efforts were signally blessed and crowned with success. During the ten or eleven years of work in this locality, he formed two churches, to both of which he ministered, besides preaching fortnightly at three other stations in villages around, and that with gratifying results, always performing the necessary journeyings on foot. At Brill, our brother was the first resident minister, other than the Episcopal clergymen, and as a dissenter was jealously watched and strenuously opposed by the powers that be. But with respect to his little flock it might be said: "the more they were persecuted the more they grew." The village day-school, for instance, was closed against the children who attended the Congregational Sunday-school, &c., &c. But neither our late brother, nor his little, and mostly poor, band of adherents could be crushed by these petty persecutions, he was equal to the emergency, and by means of special effort and considerable expense, a new British School-room was built of brick, and a well-trained master appointed, with encouraging results. Bro. Howell also here effected and superintended the erection of a new brick church edifice at the village of Oakley, where the second church had been formed, Rev. Henry Allen, now Dr. Allen, preaching the opening sermons at its dedication. Great improvements were also made in connection with the parent church.

The cause of Temperance, at his comparatively early stage of its history, had the warm support and earnest advocacy of our departed friend, and though his whole life he never lost an opportunity of speaking most vigorously against the traffic in and use of strong drink as the enemy of both religion and humanity. Under Mr. Howell's leadership, Congregationalism received a start and an impetus in this part of England which is still doing its work, not only in that

neighbourhood, but also by members scattered abroad. The time came, however, when he felt it to be his duty, especially in the interests of his growing family of boys, to leave England for a new sphere of labour; and to the sorrow of every member of his churches and his several congregations, he resigned his charges and left for this continent. If we remember correctly, he accepted a call to the Congregational Church at Sharen, Michigan. His pastorate there, however, was not of very extended duration; it was during the strong agitation on the subject of slavery, which in sentiment divided not only the Northern from the Southern States, but also divided communities, and some churches in the North. Mr. Howell was ever most uncompromising and fearless in his advocacy of the cause of freedom, too much so, it is said, to make his continued location in that particular position either pleasant or desirable. This place, all through his after life, was connected with some sad reminiscences; for here the wife of his youth, a most sincere and earnest Christian lady, who had shared with him, in all his missionary labour, his hopes and joys, as well as fears and difficulties, was taken from him by the hand of death, and here he left her remains "neath the forest of the West." She was, however, by this dispensation of Providence, spared the pain of sharing with the subject of this obituary the very deep sorrow which most severely afflicted him a few years afterwards. We refer to the death under sad and mysterious circumstances of his eldest son, which death took place in the city of Boston. Of this event he could never bear to speak but little, even to his intimate friends, and that little was the expression of a hope of his son's everlasting rest in heaven. After leaving Michigan, Canada became the home of Brother Howell, and British North America was the scene of his life and earnest active labour in and on behalf of the Congregational churches for about a quarter of a century, till death seemed to say "Thou has finished thy course." He became during that time successively pastor of the churches at Guelph, Ont., St. Johns, N. F., Liverpool, N. S., Granby, Que., and his last pastoral charge, if we mistake not, was at Cold-spring, Ont. His last work, as all the readers of the C. I. are aware, was in connection with the Canadian Indian Missionary Society, as Secretary, till the time of his death. Our late brother was, in all his affairs, a pattern of order, neatness and most scrupulous exactitude. If he ever gave offence to any, it was by his fearless combat with every stage and feature of wrong and immorality as they came under his notice. One of his mottoes was that text often quoted by him, "Let every thing be done decently and in order," and another seemed to be "No compromise with the least evil," and these he would carry out at all costs, and these costs were often great. The world needs such men, though they are not always in demand, and are there not Christian Societies which have not arisen to the sublime altitude which would enable them to appreciate such characteristics as those named? Mr. Howell has left a widow and six children, besides two elder sons of the first portion of his family. These occupy good positions in the United States.