

perilous post at which he fell. The race of Christian heroes is not exhausted yet, but still they come, "each stepping where his comrade stood."

And the success which attends him who stands in Bishop Patteson's place, will, in God's good time, attend him who goes to take up, and carry on the Banner of the Cross which fell from the dying hand of Hannington. Success indeed, immediate success, is but a secondary consideration. Duty and obedience to the Master's command, that is the first and great consideration. But still for the hardness of our own hearts, and to strengthen our feeble knees, it may not be amiss to recall the fact, that, whatever may be the vicissitudes of the battle, we fight a winning fight.

In the beginning of the century there were of Christian converts in all about 50,000. Now there are 1,500,000.

In this victory our Church has had her full share. One society alone, the Church Missionary Society, has now 90,000 native Christians, and over 4,000 European and native teachers. Another, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, while ministering faithfully and generously, —as we in this country have good cause to know—, to the spiritual need of emigrants, has never neglected the great work of carrying the good news to the heathen. And now she calls loudly for help from those whom she has helped, that she may respond to the cry that reaches her from all lands, and so "make disciples of all nations."

And we, what are we doing in this Canadian Church?

We have made a beginning. In the year 1885 we raised \$5,826. That was \$1,000 more than was contributed in the previous year. The amount is not much, but to increase is a hopeful sign.

For the work's sake, and for your own sake, we entreat you, brethren, that you be not slack in this matter; for the work's sake, for, with the dew of God's blessing upon it, the seed you sow, though it be but as a grain of mustard seed, may grow till it becomes greater than all herbs, giving shade and shelter to countless wearied souls; for your own sake, for in very truth this is a mercy that is twice blessed—that blesteth him that gives, and him that takes. He that gives but a cup of cold water shall not go without his reward. Self denial is a Christian grace, which all, to be Christians, must attain. We can deny ourselves, and ought to deny ourselves in many things; but in this matter of

giving for the spread of Christ's Gospel we have a test of the reality of our self denial about which there can be no mistake. Our money is to us the assurance of power to gratify our selfishness; and when we give up that for Christ's sake, then we know that so far, for His sake, we do deny ourselves.

And is it a great offering only that will bring again the back-flowing tide of blessings upon the giver's own soul? That is as the case may be. For you to obtain the reflex benefit of benevolence, your giving must reach the point of self-denial. Where that point is, no man can say for another; but each can very well know for himself. To reach it he must rise above the customary tribute to decency, and give, not what he can spare without feeling it, but enough to make him feel the inconvenience of parting with it. Reach that point, wherever it may be. If you have been largely blessed, give largely. If you have but little, give of that little. And never for a moment suppose that any sum, however small, if in the giving of it you reach the point of self-denial, is little in God's sight. In His estimate the widow's mite was an offering more splendid than the overflow of the rich man's superfluity.

Finally, brethren, remember that in the strenuous carrying out of Christ's great command and commission, there can be no such thing as failure—that be the results what they may, duty done is always a success. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for "thou canst not tell whether shall prosper, either "this or that, or whether they both shall be alike "good." The seed you sow is the word of God; and "as the rain cometh down," saith the Lord, "and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

**NOTE.**—It is recommended that the offerings for this purpose be sent at as early a date possible to the Secretary-Treasurer of each Diocese, to be by him transmitted to Mr. J. J. Mason, General Treasurer of the Society.

CHAS. H. NOCKRIDGE, D. D.  
General Secretary.  
Hamilton, Ont.