

Divine cause of Missions, dear as it must be to the heart of our risen and ascended Lord. Your constant prayers and pecuniary support are fervently asked for a cause of momentous interest to you all.

According to the most reliable statistics, the Church of England in the British Isles has contributed in the last twenty years \$46,100,000 to Foreign Missions; the Roman Catholic, \$840,000; the Church of Scotland, \$3,018,000; Non-conformist bodies, \$32,600,000.

The fields are white to the harvest, but the labourers are few. The Master calls us all to increased love, to intense zeal, to more thorough consecration.

CHILDREN'S LENTEN LETTER, 1893.

To the Children of the Church of England in the Sunday Schools and Congregations of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Toronto, Fredericton, Montreal, Huron, Ontario, Niagara and Algoma, from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—You have hardly had time to forget all about the happy Christmas-tide and what pleasant days you spent and what presents you received; and yet Lent has nearly come to soften these happy memories and to tell us that the Church does not wish that all our time should be spent in pleasure and in joy. For Lent shows us our dear Lord, by whose coming into the world we were made so happy at Christmas, spending forty days in the wilderness praying and fasting, and away from the comforts of home and having wild beasts as His companions. And then the Church ends these forty days with that solemn season called Holy Week, and she tells us of the holy Jesus betrayed and condemned to death, and on Good Friday crucified for us, both that we might be spared a good deal of sorrow and that we might have hopes of a brighter joy at Easter-tide.

Now think what you would like any one to do if you had gone through any trouble for his sake; you would surely expect him to feel sorry and not altogether forget it. And so Jesus by His Church tells us to think of Him and during Lent to be sorry that He had to go through so much suffering for us, that we might be happy hereafter.

But there are a great many people for whom Christ has suffered, who do not know or care anything about it and who have no right to expect such blessings as we know are prepared for us, if we love Jesus.

There are many who do not even know there is a Saviour come from God our Father to bring them to His blessed home in heaven.

There are many who carry their gods about with them, wrapped up in straw and just

uncover the head of the wooden image when they want to worship.

There are others who put a man before Jesus the Son of God and say Mohammed was a greater prophet. And there are some who worship our God and whose fathers were His special people the Jews, whose history you read about in the Old Testament, but they will not believe that Jesus Christ is the promised Saviour.

Then there are some who wish to serve God and Christ's as much as you do, but they have no chance of doing it, because they are far away from any church and never perhaps see a clergyman, and their children are not baptised, nor taught in Sunday school, nor confirmed.

We ought to feel very sorry for all this, since we know how good it is to have Church and services and Sunday schools, and how much they add to our happiness.

Well, Lent is a time for self-denial, a time for us to look away from ourselves to others and to think how we may do them some good.

And the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, asks you to help them in their work of making Christ known to all men, and suggests that you may do it in this way:—

First. Make a point of reading something about the Missions of the Church, or some missionary who is trying to teach those who have not learned what the Bible tells us about Christ Jesus our Saviour. You will be sure to find it very interesting reading. But even if you do not, you should use a little self-denial and read it as a duty fit for Lent.

Next. Think often of those who have no churches and no services, and yet perhaps want them very much, and remember them in your daily prayers and ask God to make His Kingdom come to them, His blessed truth known to them, and be sure the Almighty will answer it in some way.

Then save up all the money you can instead of spending it upon your own pleasure; do some work, if possible, to earn money; give up something in order to lay it by until Easter-day and then offer it to God for the work of His Church.

You may not all know how to do this; then ask your parents and teachers and they will tell you what is best to be done, and perhaps they will help you in the same work.

But some of you will think, I am so young and have so little money, that it is not worth while trying to do anything; I cannot do enough to help. Did you never read in the Bible that *very little* are the very words which our Lord Jesus uses when he praises the man whose pound gained ten pounds? "Thou hast been faithful in a very little." In God's work the little things are the great things; often they are the greatest of all. Don't you remember how two little mites, not half a cent, were counted to