

withdrawn their support from us, for the Northern Church subscription of \$20 is a life-membership subscription from one of its members; and the Western Church subscription of \$15 was for the previous year, but received too late for entering in the accounts; therefore, the only church collection we have received from Toronto during the year is \$4.34! Now this is a very serious matter indeed, and it should not be ignored, for its influence is affecting the society injuriously, not only in its immediate district, but elsewhere. Only the other day I received a letter from a pastor in another city, to whom I had written asking for the church's subscription, who said, "What can you expect from our little city, when Toronto, where Congregationalism has been established for over sixty years, gives such a trifle?"

The Toronto churches claim that they are assisting the weaker churches in their own city, and therefore they cannot subscribe to the C.C.M.S. Well, if that ground were taken by other cities and towns, what is to become of the weak country churches whom the society helps? for if other places adopt the same plea there would be no money to help them with; and again, what becomes of the missionary principle? Are we to be told in this year of grace, 1895, that our generosity is to be confined to our own church or city, and that we have no responsibility for the outlying and poorer sections of our common country?

Surely brethren, we have not so learned Christ. Besides, the society is helping Toronto by a grant of \$300 to one of its churches, and on the lower ground of reciprocity, the Toronto friends are in duty bound to aid it by their liberality, not to speak of the example they, as a great centre of Congregationalism, ought to set to the surrounding churches.

I could say much more, but I refrain, and I would not have said thus much had it not been that I know there is a very strong feeling abroad in reference to the action of the Toronto churches, which feeling, if not allayed, may have a deleterious influence on the future well-being of our society.

And now with regard to next year's grants, as we have not been able to make ends meet this year, and have a debt of \$1,500 to face, it follows that there will require to be a reduction in the amount set aside for missionary grants, and the new General Committee will doubtless take the whole matter into their serious consideration. This will not be unexpected, for I have, through the *Congregationalist*, indicated the probability of this for some months past. In the face of shortages every

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