

Monthly Messenger.

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THE WANTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. III.

The poetry on our second page is from the pen of an esteemed lady correspondent in London, and was written expressly for this magazine. Our authoress, besides attending to the duties of a numerous family, rendering valuable assistance in business, finds time to maintain a varied correspondence, to act as secretary for a benevolent society, to serve on several committees in connection with her church, to visit the homes of the poor, and, Dorcas-like, to make garments for the widow and the orphan—at the same time to contribute both in prose and verse to several periodicals. Thank God, there are thousands of her sex now lending valuable aid to the Church of Christ. If woman was "first in the transgression," she was last at the cross, and first at the sepulchre; and Paul is only one of a great multitude who has saluted the women that laboured with him in the Gospel. It is one of the most encouraging features of the great missionary enterprise of the present that women are being trained and sent to assist in the social, moral, and spiritual elevation of the neglected and benighted heathen at home and abroad.

Women are our best Sabbath-school teachers, missionary collectors, temperance advocates, and social reformers. We understand that they are largely employed in the national schools both in Canada and the United States, and that they make by far the most efficient elementary teachers in every country where so employed.

Certainly, one of the great wants of Newfoundland is, *Christian workers in connection with our various churches.* It is too much the rule to leave all to the ministry, or to a paid agency. If the dire necessities of our scattered and long-neglected population are to be adequately met, we must not wait till we can find paid agents to do it. I think there is ample ability in the colony to educate and elevate all those who have hitherto been neglected. In most places there are either ministers, school teachers, merchants, Government officials, or private citizens, who have had a fair, if not a liberal, education. Now, if these individuals do their duty, they will conduct evening classes, and Sunday-schools, and mothers' meetings, and such like things, and not be content till every individual in the settlement is able to read.

This proposal may be met with a sneer by some; but

the same kind of work is being carried on in all the great cities of England. Notably in the City of London, Christian men and women—yes, and men and women of wealth and position—are devoting their time and energies to this very work. I know well that few in this country either understand or appreciate their labours; but we must remember that we are at least half-a-century behind the mother country in regard to philanthropic as well as other enterprises. But surely we are not going to remain as we are. Our moneyed men are not behind in their donations to charitable and Christian objects; but all classes are far behind in the matter of personal consecration. Christ does not want *ours*, but *ourselves*. He gave *Himself* not His *wealth*, but His life, for us. What will we give to testify that we love Him because He first loved us. We can do a great work if we consecrate ourselves wholly to God, and the service of our country. It should not be necessary to employ arguments to induce any to commence who have the love of God in their hearts, that itself will *constrain* them. But many appear to be waiting for some great occasion, or to be employed in some conspicuous work. I think it was Elliott, the apostle of the Indians, who rejoiced to be permitted on his dying bed to teach the alphabet to a poor Indian boy.

We should seize opportunities as they present themselves, "and the least you do for Jesus will be precious in His sight." Come up at once to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Let the aged come with their wisdom and experience, the young with their energy and enthusiasm, woman with her varied qualifications, and the rich with their gold and silver. The field is the world, and the Lord of the harvest will give the needful strength, and prosper the feeblest effort, and crown the faithful with an eternal weight of glory.

"Go work in my vineyard to-day,
Go toil in the burning sun,
Come, ye blessed, I soon shall say,
When your labour on earth is done."

BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.

We are glad to know that this society has two active agents employed on the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland during this season. It is impossible to calculate the benefits conferred upon our people by the labours of these men. They bring a pure literature, at a remarkably low price, to the homes of the poor fishermen and others, most of whom would have no opportunity of obtaining it otherwise.