

The Canadian Church Magazine

AND MISSION NEWS.

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DECEMBER, 1887.

OUR FIRST VOLUME.

VOLUME I of this Magazine ends with this year. It consists of eighteen numbers, comprising as many months. Hereafter each Volume will contain but twelve numbers, from January to December of each year. Binding covers specially prepared for Vol. I may be had on application to Rev. Dr. Mockridge, Hamilton, Ont.

WE regret that owing to the pressure on our columns this month we are obliged to hold the conclusion of Rev. W. R. Clark's article on the Diocese of Niagara, over till next issue.

THE bishops of the North-West deplore the smallness of the amounts received by them from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, but while it certainly is to be regretted that the Society is not furnished with larger contributions for aid in the North-West, it is to be remembered that the Diocese of Algoma, our own Missionary Diocese, absorbs a very large amount of the money raised for Domestic Missions. It is hoped that as the Society gains more influence better results will be obtained.

BISHOP PINKHAM, (Saskatchewan), is now in Prince Albert, having visited many places since leaving Calgary, travelling 800 miles in a waggon and sleeping in the open air at night. The new Rector of Calgary is Rev. A. W. F. Cooper, M. A., lately of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, and not Rev. Canon Cooper, as some have supposed. The latter has taken up good Missionary work in Kamloops, British Columbia.

WHILE the cry of most of the North-West bishops is for money, that of the bishop of Qu'Appelle is for men. Men are badly wanted in his diocese.

THE Canadian Church Union has issued a leaflet calling upon laymen of the church to help in the laudable objects which they have in view and which are clearly stated in it. All information may be obtained from Mr. W. J. Imlach, London, Ontario.

THE APPEALS OF THE BOARD.

THE Epiphany Appeal will be issued in due time. It is appointed to be read in all our churches on the Sunday before Epiphany. It will be an appeal for aid in Foreign Mission work. Pray we earnestly that God will put it into the hearts of many to give liberally of their substance in aid of this noble cause. That there is need for continued effort in support of Foreign Missions, may be seen from the fact that while there are in the world 390 millions of Christians of all kinds, nominal or actual, and 8 millions of Jews, there are 170 millions of Mohammedans (of whom 80 millions are women shut up in Moslem harems), and 856 millions of heathen, of whom 300 millions are Buddhist women, with no hope of immortality, unless in some future transmigration they may be born as men.

There are some congregations and some few clergy in the several dioceses of this ecclesiastical province, to whom the reading of these appeals is distasteful.

Let us weigh the objections ordinarily advanced and the advantages which may be fairly looked for from these appeals. The most common objection amounts simply to a criticism which may be regarded as a compliment to the usual sermon, but which we are persuaded is not intended by the laymen who make it, to imply any real unwillingness to listen to the appeal. They say, "We prefer the sermon you preach to us every Sunday to the reading of any formal statement from others." The clergyman who hears this feels bound to preach a sermon in addition to the appeal, and then the objection comes very promptly that the service is made too long. Instead of preaching a sermon on a distinct subject the clergyman may be tempted to intersperse his own comments and remarks as he reads the several paragraphs or points in the appeal. This oftentimes becomes tedious to the people, and it may be questioned whether the appeal is always elucidated and strengthened.

The real ground of objection in a large number of cases is one of the strongest reasons for reading the appeal. It is an appeal; it sets forth clearly and forcibly a duty which cannot be rightly and well discharged without self-denial. It disturbs conscience, makes the hearer less satisfied with himself. Naturally enough he objects to the appeal; but the ground of his objection establishes the need there is for his hearing it; in fact his need may be almost as pressing as that of the people on whose behalf the appeal is made, whether they belong to struggling congregations in the North-West or to the heathen in pagan lands. We are persuaded that the clergy are too sensitive about the remarks which reach their ears with reference to these letters of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Any departure from what is customary, any change whatever in the service for the Sunday, is sure to elicit comment. People ordinarily have very little to think about, and must make remarks