

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

### TO GRADUATING STUDENTS.

BRETHREN,—As the session is drawing to a close the attention of graduates in all our colleges, will, no doubt, be directed to the question of their future spheres of labour. The Home and Foreign fields have claims peculiarly their own. At present the work which God has specially given our Church to do in my estimation is Home Mission work. A new territory of large area is thrown open for settlement. Thousands are flocking into it and making for themselves and children a home. The first care of our Church as well as of the other churches in the Dominion should be to give these people the Gospel. The Kingdom of God is not advanced by converting 100 in India and leaving 200 to lapse in Canada; and lapse they will if not provided with missionaries. If Christian work is to be attended to in the North-West our young men must give themselves to it. The population of our country is largely composed of young people and young men are ever acceptable to them. Like draws to like. Men with families have not the opportunity of educating them in a new country without schools. The large amount of travel requires men of youthful vigour and endurance. We want men who live in the future and not in the past, men of faith, of hope, of courage and zeal.

Last season the immigration into the country was about 45,000. From the Hon. D. A. Smith I learned on the train the other day that the prospects are that we shall have a large immigration next season from Scotland and Holland. What the prospects are from Ontario and the other Provinces of the Dominion, or from England and Ireland I do not know as yet, but no doubt many from those countries will seek the North-West as their future home. But leaving out of view next season's immigration there is a great demand to meet the pressing wants of fields now. Let me give details.

No.	Fields now Vacant.	No. of Station.	No. of Families.
1	Oak Lake.....	4	40
2	Virden.....	4	50
3	Beaver Creek (near Ft. Ellice).....	3	56
4	Beulah.....	5	50
5	Carberry.....	7	40
6	Souris.....	5	50
7 11	Moose Mountain.....	25	375
12	Indian Head.....	4	60
13	Fort Qu'Appelle.....	6	60
14	Grenfell.....	4	50
15	Medicine Hat and Maple Creek.....	4	45
16	Fort McLeod.....	3	50
17 19	York County Colony and vicin'y.....	20	140
20	Meadow Lea.....	4	25
21	Headingley.....	5	60
Total.....		99	1151

In spring the following fields now supplied by elders who went to Manitoba for six months will be vacant:

22	Peacock.....	4	40
23	Cadurcis.....	2	60
24	Newdale.....	4	45
25	Lindsay.....	4	40
26	Mountain City.....	4	45
27	McGregor.....	4	50
28	Pancake Lake.....	4	60
Total.....		26	340

Together making a total of..... 125 ..... 1491

Provision must also be made for Battleford, whose people are asking for a minister, and who promise the first year at least \$500 towards his support. The Touchwood Hills and Long Lake (north of Regina) must be provided for. Between thirty and forty families at Carrot River require a resident missionary. The Rev. A. B. Baird must receive assistance during the summer at least to overtake the wants of his growing field. The same is true of the Rev. J. Farquharson. To meet the known wants of our field about thirty missionaries will be required. Many of the fields are organized and need a missionary permanently settled among them to ensure growth. How many of you can we secure for this good work? The urgency of this work is such that to know of it is a call to engage in it unless you have a more urgent call elsewhere. There is no need of asking for reasons to go, you are to go of course unless you can urge reasons for not going. Look at the facts. That the North-West has immense resources which when developed will make the country wealthy is beyond dispute. Where superior beef and the finest of the wheat can be raised the Anglo-Saxon

race will thrive. The future bent of the public mind there will largely depend on the present. The original type is permanent. If this generation is irreligious, immoral, it will reproduce itself in the next. If we wish the North-West to be religious now is the time to give it the Gospel. Delay will be disastrous.

If the country is now leavened with the Gospel we may expect that its growing wealth will be consecrated to religious objects. Our growing Foreign work will require a wider constituency from which to draw funds. Our hope lies in the newer districts of our land. But this hope can be realized only as we give them the Gospel now. Neglect the new settlements now and we alienate sympathy, and instead of there being in future a source of revenue they will entail expense.

The growth of the work during the last few years should encourage men to offer for its prosecution. The following figures will explain:—

	1871.	1883.
Number of Ministers and Missionaries..	4	85
“ of Mission Stations and Cong..	9	250
“ of Families.....	198	over 5000
Amount of Contributions for all objects \$2,195.....		\$86,000

Last season an increase of 622 communicants was reported, not including self-supporting congregations. Objections are raised, and I am anxious to meet them if possible. The country is cold—well, it is not like Florida or even Ontario, the frost is more severe. The climate, however, does not seem to be any more trying to men of health than warmer climates. Mr. Smith, to whom I already referred, was telling me that of all his class-mates—and there were a large number of them—only two survive. Some went to Australia and New Zealand, some to India, and other warm climates. Two went to the North-West, and they are yet vigorous, the others have all passed away. On the 25th of last September I left Qu'Appelle and reached Calgary November 10th. I drove, in all, about 1,300 miles. The most of the time I slept outside, without even the advantage of a tent. I never felt better, and weighed fifteen pounds more at Calgary than when I took the stage at Qu'Appelle. The health of our ministers residing in the North-West is the best evidence of the salubrity of our climate.

But the people are there, and surely where they can live ministers can live. Roman Catholic priests and Episcopal clergymen are found away down within the Arctic Circle ministering to the spiritual wants of the Indians, and shall anyone urge cold as a reason for not going to the North-West. The heat of India, China, and the African coast are far more trying than the cold of Manitoba, and yet men volunteer for that work in larger numbers than are required. The argument lacks force. Christian work requires to be done there. When our Lord said “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature,” He did not except the North-West.

But the fields are large and settlement is sparse. Is this any reason for neglecting them? As the land is taken up, fields will be divided and the work less laborious: the field occupied by the Rev. A. Smith is now divided into five charges; the Rev. Mr. Hodnett's old field is now three, etc. In less than two years the late Mr. McConnell's field was divided into two. The same is true of the Rev. Mr. Farquharson's field and others.

Living is high and expenses generally heavy. Yes; and the General Assembly recognize this by giving a higher salary to our missionaries than to those in Ontario.

The country might not agree with me—so might not your dinner, but you take it all the same. But, should you not like the country, give the Church at least two or three years of your time in that field, and then you can honourably return, and you will be all the more likely to get a good charge in Ontario for your self-denial for giving yourself to that work.

My friend, think that I have more ability than to go West then. Less promising men, they say, will answer there. Your friends are very complimentary to you, if not to us. They speak in ignorance, however. In no place are men of ability and scholarship required more than in the North-West. Our population is largely composed of men of intelligence, of education, of culture. We require brains and scholarship to secure their attention. When men like Principal King, and his colleagues, the Revs. D. M. Gordon, C. B. Pitblado, J. Pringle, A. B. Baird, W. McWilliam, D. M. Ramsay, and others, who have gone West recently,

decided to cast in their lots with the West. You might find a sphere too for your ability, however great.

But the people there have the Gospel—they have their Bibles and they can read them. “But what if they do not?” “Then their condemnation will be all the greater.” “And you are willing to leave them to this condemnation?” All the people in Ontario have their Bibles, and no one thinks of asking them to do without ministers. The members of any one denomination could be attended to by the ministers of the others, while in the North-West, in many districts, there are no ministers at all. But why continue this style of argument. I would give more for one good man than all the objections that could be urged in a week.

By going to the West you will help to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of the Redeemer's kingdom; you will have a field you can mould to your liking; you will be sowing seed in virgin soil that will yield a rich harvest in years to come; you will cheer the hearts of many pious people who lament their present destitution; you will encourage the faithful men labouring there now; you will prevent the rising generation from sinking into spiritual apathy and death; you will secure gems for the Redeemer's crown; you will be laying the foundations of society in righteousness and truth and you will be meriting the “Well done, good and faithful servant,” which Christ shall address to all His faithful followers. Write to the Convener of the Committee, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Brantford, as soon as possible so that we can arrange for the work of the session. JAMES ROBERTSON.

Woodstock, Jan., 1884.

### HOME MISSION WORK IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

GRAND FALLS N. B., AND VAN BUREN, MAINE, U. S.

MR. EDITOR,—A short time ago being appointed by the Presbytery of St. John, I visited Grand Falls in our own Province, and Van Buren in the State of Maine. These stations lie about 200 miles north and west of St. John, and are about twelve miles apart. They are reached by the New Brunswick Railway, which runs through Grand Falls and touches St. Leonard's, the point on the Canadian side of the river immediately opposite to Van Buren. Both these places are beautifully situated in the middle, or rather on the southern border of a magnificent country. Scarcely anywhere can more beautiful or romantic scenery be found than in New Brunswick, and I am told that there is a region containing millions of acres of the choicest agricultural lands, in the northern part of the Province awaiting opening up and settlement; part of it, of course, is already occupied by farmers whose homes testify to their comfortable circumstances; but in some way which does not seem easy to account for a very large tract of magnificent country is still awaiting settlement.

As to our cause at Grand Falls our people have a beautiful church, so out of keeping with the ordinary state of things as to be unmortgaged and entirely free of even a floating debt, too often rather a sinking debt to the church, whose duty it is to float it. This church was built during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Paradis about six years ago. The congregation is small and is composed besides Presbyterians of members of various other Protestant denominations. The Church of England is the only other Protestant place of worship in the place. The people meeting in the Presbyterian church are very willing to unite in the support of a minister. Last year Mr. E. F. Saylor, of Montreal College, occupied the field with much acceptance and did excellent service. The people expressed a very earnest desire to have him settled among them next spring. In Van-Buren, there is at present no Protestant service, the Episcopal clergyman having left. I called on a number of the people in the few hours at my disposal, and found them anxious to have a minister among them, and those best able to judge assured me that if a minister were to come and take earnest hold of the work they would do what they could to support him. Van-Buren and Grand Falls would form a very desirable charge, and it is of great importance that it should be occupied at once by an energetic man.

The peculiarity of the field is, of course, that the Protestant communities are in the middle of a French Roman Catholic population, and in the meantime whatever changes may come from the extension of the railway, and consequent opening of the country,