

have been in despair, instead of being filled with hope, as we have been from day to day, and being made to know by our own experience that "all things do work together for good to them that love God; and to them that are the called according to His purpose."

I have been suffering from brain trouble, brought on by over-work, mental anxiety and worry; of which I have had more than my share during my nine years pastorate of Noel and Maitland. Though somewhat relieved, my brain is not yet able to bear the strain of any prolonged physical or mental effort. Still, the physicians I have consulted are of the opinion that five or six months more of absolute rest and freedom from care will work wonders, and will probably result in complete restoration. So you see I am very hopeful at the present time, and am striving to follow in the line of the above advice as closely as possible.

Yours very respectfully,

JACOB W. COX.

Kingsport, N.S., May 1, 1888.

MR. HALL'S LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR,—Our denominational year is drawing to a close, and the great event ahead of all good Congregationalists in Canada, is the meeting of the Union in Montreal. A full attendance is hoped for, and also that all shall come prepared to give the best possible assistance and counsel. Foremost among the many interests that will claim attention, thought, prayer and earnest deliberation is our missionary work. There is a strong and increasing desire to have the stations that have long been drawing from the funds, either to become self-sustaining or to greatly reduce their demands. I am sure in most cases this is the wish and hope of the mission churches quite as much as it is that of the Society. That there are very great difficulties in the way, few have a better opportunity of knowing than myself, yet I suppose I may venture the assertion that more can be done than we think, and none can tell how much till they try. There are many places where we should be at work, and could if the resources of the Society were sufficient to warrant the attempt.

It is perhaps not wise, considering the whole circumstances of our Society and the state of the

country, to expend our strength on the smaller places. Certainly no one would counsel the inauguration of new work in small places, though it may be difficult and undesirable to withdraw from those we have been working. But the wiser plan—the apostolic plan—is to occupy the centres, and work from these. Now to do this we require large means. It is more expense to build and sustain work in the towns and cities than in the country; and I maintain that it would be better not to begin work at all than to begin it as we have been obliged to do so often on most inadequate means. More might be done in five years with the proper support, than in twenty as we have been obliged to work in the past.

When you think of the ground that has been covered, the many places that our Society has done purely evangelist and pioneer work, and then been driven or crowded out by others, the wonder is, not that we have so little to show, but that we have so much. We can challenge any Society in the world to show the same results with so small means. Undoubtedly the men who have laid foundations in Canada have been self-denying and faithful.

The visit of the Secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society, the Rev. W. S. H. Fielden, is a step in the right direction, and we look forward with great pleasure to seeing his genial face once more. He will be with us at Montreal and Yarmouth, and desires to see our genuine missionary work. He is not anxious to be *feted* in our cities, but rather to see the actual life of our missionaries and their churches.

If he meets with the Board as it makes the appropriations, he will have some better idea of our difficulties in spreading the income of the Society; and he will understand the importance of the 20 per cent. from the Colonial Society.

After the Union in Montreal he might look at a few places in the eastern townships of Quebec. Then he can meet with the Union of the Maritime Provinces in Yarmouth, where most of the time is spent in discussing missionary matters. If he has time he can see the nakedness of that land too—as hard, and in some respects, as discouraging mission ground as any on the continent. He wants to pay special attention to our great North-West country, and British Columbia. He will