

## Noods of Western Mission Fields.

At the meeting of the H.M. Committee of the General Assembly held last week in this city, thirty missionaries were appointed to the Synod of Manitoba and North-West Territories, and eight to the Synod of British Columbia. Among them are many who were in the field last season. Eleven missions near Winnipeg will be supplied from Manitoba College during the winter, and Presbyteries despairing of getting supply, decided to close for the winter a number of missions that should have continuous supply. But in addition to these are twelve important missions in the Synod of Manitoba and North-West Territories and seven in the Synod of British Columbia for which we have no supply. Will not nineteen young men volunteer to supply these fields for a year, or even six months? There are said to be 107 students enrolled in the college in Montreal, 115 are said to have taken the course in whole or in part (eighty-four of the former) in Knox and Queen's will bring the numbers up to the neighbourhood of 300. This is half the number of ministers of our Church in active service in Ontario and Quebec. Could not a score of these undertake to supply these needy fields in the west? By reason of the summer session arrangement, students need not lose a day in graduating, they will be engaged in the work to which they have given their lives, and they will do much to help the growth of the Church, to prevent lapsing and to advance the interests of true religion. The undersigned will be glad to hear from any wishing to help.

J. ROBERTSON.

544 Church street, Toronto.

## Statement Regarding the Canadian Missionary College, Indore, Central India.

I. STATE OF THE FIELD. When two years ago I made a calculation from the census then obtainable, I found that .001 per cent. (or nineteen out of 10,000) of the population were in schools, and that there was one school or college for every 21,215 of the people.

Many of the schools are:—

(a) Mohammedan, in which only the Koran is memorized.

(b) Shastri, in which only the Hindu sacred books are memorized.

(c) Banya, or shop keeper, in which only that connected with their accounts is taught.

The greater part of the people can neither read or write, and hence are the prey of the cunning priests and their ignorant superstitions, and hence, too, the sale of books, tracts, etc., is very restricted. . . . In the general awakening Central India has been somewhat moved too, and hence there is a rapidly increasing number who desire to be able to read and write. Were we able to occupy it, almost the whole field of virgin soil is open to our efforts, and had we but the men we might have 1,000 schools amongst these people.

(Note.—But how can we have the schools without the teachers? And how can we have the teachers unless we train the young men and boys among our native Christians for the work? To man these schools with Canadian teachers is impossible, and would be a waste of life and money. To man many of them with native Christian teachers is almost within reach. God is giving the men; we look to Him, through the Canadian Churches, freely to give what is needed in order to the training. "Is not the life more than meat?" and the men more than the money?—A.R.)

II. OUR DESIRES.—First, To educate as many Hindu, Mohammedan and Parsee boys as we can teach, in a Christian atmosphere and by direct Christian instruction. . . . We get the boys when their minds are open to impressions, before their prejudices have bound them, and get them day after day, and so can give continuous and progressive teaching, and inasmuch as we are helping them in a way they can appreciate, we can instil divine truth in a way not possible in the ordinary preaching services we may hold. They regard our words as those of a friend. . . .

Further, we cannot surely, in the awakening of India, in the crisis through which it is passing, allow the young men, the future rulers, to be educated in the infidel atmos-

phere of too many of the government colleges, or in the heathen atmosphere of some of those in the native states, if we can counteract that evil influence. There never was so great a need for a healthy Christian influence in connection with education as there is here to-day, and this only the mission schools and colleges can bring. They are not afraid of us nor our religion, and to me the Bible class hour is one of the most interesting of the day. I teach the Bible to the college and matriculation class, and have thus, day after day, about forty young men before me, deeply interested in our religion, eagerly questioning each step of our way, but yet apparently following me step by step as I seek to lead them up to Christ. Not a few of them convinced of the truth of Christianity, some even confessing Christ publicly. If the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, as I firmly believe, then I know of no way in which to gather together for the daily presentation of the Gospel, a congregation at all equalling this one, whether we have regard to the present or future of these young men.

The fact that heathen colleges are being established only emphasizes all the more need for ours, i.e., if we keep before us the higher work that we can and should do, and that will not be thought of by these others. The causes that led to infidel France are living realities in India, and even the government has at last been awakened to a sense of her danger; but her hands are tied.

Second. But our special aim is to train and educate our native Christians for the work of our Lord in Central India.

Every mission has more work than workers, and so we get only those whom misfortune has in some way thrown out of work in their own field, and too often these are far from satisfactory. We must, therefore, train our own men. For some of these the vernacular school course will be sufficient, but we must put the best weapons into the hands of those able to wield them in the keen, earnest conflict that is being waged around the cross of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. If a college education and the mental training it brings are needed at home, how much more so in India. All our Christians cannot be set apart for Christian workers, and of the workers all cannot take a university course, but some can, and for these we require an institution in our own field, where we can take them over the entire course. The Normal School and Theological classes we should more fully develop, but in the meantime we are trying to train to the extent of our strength, time and ability, in the subjects that seem to be needed for those under training. We do not mean to say we are doing all we wish, but till our hands are strengthened we are trying to cover all that seems possible.

We now have sixty Christians in the school, of whom fourteen form a special class that we are preparing for the position of teacher missionaries in the meantime. The greater part of these are from Indore, but gradually we hope to get the young men from other fields too, when our numbers will greatly increase. These are all taught the Bible outside the school hours, besides the daily Bible instruction given to all students in their regular classes, and take part in the Christian work, as in Sabbath schools, evangelistic work, etc., as they are able. The special importance of these facts is very apparent in view of the following sentences first received from another missionary.

"During the past twelve months upwards of fifty of the Mangs in Indore City have been baptized. These are the just fruits of what is believed will be a large ingathering into the Christian Church. To teach and build up this flock in the Christian faith will require a band of earnest, faithful native workers."

III. OUR NEEDS.—Our great difficulty has been want of help and want of accommodation. For the accommodation we require:

(1) A church building large enough to receive the crowds that come to almost every service we hold. We have two rooms turned into one in the new college building, i.e. 50x20, but to-night at prayer-meeting, outside in the verandah as well as in the room the whole was crowded full. Our new College hall, 70x10, if completed would help us over this difficulty.

(In a private letter recently received from

Mr. Wilkie occur the following touching sentences. "As our wee room is crowded full and overflowing at our different services, there is an intense longing for the larger hall—but it will all come in our loving Master's own time, for the work is His, and He knows what we need and when.")

(2) Room for our classes. . . .

(3) We would like to have a "Home" for both Christian and other students, so that the Christian influence may be more thoroughly be carried out. Such a building could be erected for about \$2000, of good materials, but of this I do not care to say anything till the College building is completed.

At present the walls of the entire College building are up, but roofing, plastering, seating, etc., are undone, and to finish it, i.e., to give us class rooms and our hall or church, we will require \$10,000 additional. The entire cost of the building was estimated at \$25,000. Of this, \$10,000 was raised in Canada, and it was expected that \$10,000 would be given by the Government here. In this I have been disappointed, as the great fall in the value of silver has thrown the Government into serious financial difficulties. If I had obtained this, I could easily have managed the rest, and I earnestly hope some good friends may come to our assistance, and give the money the Government was expected to give. . . . I cannot but believe that there are many in Canada who will gladly join us in the work that is theirs as well as ours, when they know the need.

I should have said the first story is all done, and is used by the College and part of the school classes.

(Signed) J. WILKIE.

Indore, Sept. 6th, 1893.

Copies of the above "statement" in quantities I propose to keep on hand during the next three months, to be used freely by any who would like to help in making up the amount required, and I hold myself ready to transmit to Mr. Wilkie direct, at the end of each month, any money that may be sent in for that purpose. Mr. John McIntosh, of this village, has kindly undertaken to manage for me the accounts, the banking and transmission, but the money may be sent to me. A brief weekly account, if space can be allowed, will appear in each of the Presbyterian papers, giving weekly receipts and the then state of the fund. By keeping this open for three months, all who have a mind to help will have the opportunity both for prayer and effort in a quiet but effective way. Rev. Dr. Reid, at my request, kindly consented, under some restrictions, to act as treasurer, but these restrictions made a local treasurer necessary besides; and we think at present it may be more convenient and direct to do all the business on the spot, though looking to him for any instructions that may be needed.

Copies of the above "statement," each enclosed in an open envelope, will be sent to any address. These can be distributed among friends, in Sabbath schools or congregations, to be returned within a week containing any gift the willing hearted may wish to put in for the cause. The smallest offerings in this way will be acceptable. The amount thus received can be sent at once to me (Mrs.) Anna Ross, Brucefield, Ont., and will be acknowledged with all the care and speed possible, both to the one who sends and to the two Presbyterian papers. Many can thus have the opportunity to help, and yet no one will be pressed to give, or to give a cent more than they feel inclined, as no one needs to know how much is given by any individual. When convenient the copies of "the statement" may be sent back to me, as they may easily be used several times.

Ten thousand dollars are required, if possible \$12,000. Is it asking too much to plead that He whose are "the silver and the gold," shall so open His treasures that the full amount shall come in by the end of the three months? Will those especially who can help but little with money, make this matter a subject of prayer?

ANNA ROSS.

BRUCEFIELD, Ont., Oct. 14, 1893.

P.S.—I should also state that this effort is made with the hearty sanction of the Foreign Mission Committee.—A.R.