

THE DOUKHOBORTSI

AND

THE GALICIANS OF THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST

It is with much pleasure that I respond to the request of the editor-in-chief of THE JOURNAL for a letter for its columns, inasmuch as many of its readers are the Professors, Students and Graduates of the College—as well as other friends of Montreal—friendly intercourse with whom during the past few years I still hold in fond memory. This response is the more readily made because of the many expressions of interest in my work which have come to me by mail, and of the tangible manifestation of the sincere interest of the Presbyterian women of Montreal which has recently come by freight. For all of these, especially for the tangible, I hereby tender my sincere thanks. Of course the main topic of my letter must be that of most import to myself—that is, the work I am here attempting to do—which is the making use of one of the many forms of Applied Christianity as a means of opening the way, which is not yet open, for the coming of the missionary proper with his evangel message, which amongst these semi-barbaric Galicians as well as amongst all other barbaric and semi-barbaric peoples, is the only means of elevating to the fullest extent their present very low standard of civilization. I say: “to the fullest extent.” My experience here seems to show me that the means to the highest means is an inseparable part of the highest means. Applied Christianity is love in action, which is the highest form of love. Love begets love. Even the smallest kindness done to those in need of help is a reflection of the unspeakable love of Him who, in His love for men, “Continually went about doing good, healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease amongst the people,” and then on Calvary gave His life that benighted Galicians as well as enlightened Anglo-Saxons might have life for evermore. And this reflection, be it never so dim, which may be cast into the darkest of hearts by even the