

Neglected Duties.

ONE of the most striking facts that come under the notice of the Missionary, is, that not a few Presbyterians are lost to the Church because of the carelessness, inactivity or selfishness of some of its ministers. Let me illustrate and prove this assertion by the following concrete examples of the state of affairs in some places:—

First.—There are congregations where the minister duly receives his stated salary, and possibly for said salary he labors faithfully to his own congregation; but more is demanded of him in the interest of the Church at large, and the propagation of truth. It is demanded that he should look a few miles outside his own particular sphere of labor, and ascertain if there are not a few Presbyterians who anxiously desire that the gospel should be preached to them by a minister of their own Church. Perhaps some of these ministers may say such is not the case regarding their neighborhoods. Are they sure of this? Have they visited these neighborhoods to enquire concerning the matter? or have they even looked at the last census to learn if such might not be the case? If not, it is advisable they do so, and it is not unlikely they will be gladly surprised, as several others have been, who are doing their duty in this regard; and there are good reasons for believing many more would be surprised if they only would go and do likewise. Again.—There are cases of the following character, and believing there may possibly be many such, it is deemed right to draw attention to them, viz.: congregations that are not self-sustaining, consequently drawing aid from the Mission Fund. These are forever struggling for an existence. The Missionary for the sake of his life and character can only remain for a year or two. Whereas, if on some sunny day, before leaving his parish, he had driven a few miles beyond its limits, he would have probably discovered many Presbyterian friends, who, perhaps, have for years been receiving preaching from one or more clergymen of other denominations, and who have always to drive as far to these people as their own minister would have to do. Surely Presbyterians should go as great a distance to preach the gospel as any others. So far as we know, our Church has never been guilty of proselytizing, but she has been negligent in her treatment of her own people. However, we are glad to know she is waking up to her duty in this direction, and trust the near future may find her altogether alive to this important department of her work.

J. C.

Students' Missionary Society.

THE annual meeting of this Society, was held on the evening of the 21st inst., in one of the lecture rooms. After devotional exercises, the following business was transacted:—

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and

approved. Several new members were elected, after which the last annual report of the Society was read. The report was an encouraging one. Of the three stations, Massawippi, Cypress River, and Riviere du Loup, supplied by the Society during the summer of '81, two, Massawippi and Cypress River, were reported as in a prosperous condition. Massawippi is likely soon to be in a position to procure a settled pastor.

The reports of the missionaries for the summer of '82 formed the next item of business. Four fields, Massawippi, Chaudière, Meadow Lea, Manitoba, Chambly and Longueuil, have been supplied by the Society during the past summer. The report of Mr. J. C. Martin, missionary at Chambly and Longueuil, was the only one read.

Chambly is described as a town of about 1800 inhabitants, two thirds of whom are French, situated on the Richelieu river, 16 miles from Montreal and the same distance from St. John. It is an old place, a fort having been built there by De Tracy in the year 1665. It was an important place during the Indian wars, and also during those between the French and English, as it commanded the river. It is now quite a manufacturing place, containing both cotton and woollen mills.

On account of its pleasant situation and its proximity to Montreal, it is a place of resort during the summer months. The presence of the summer residents renders the services of a missionary more necessary. An Episcopal church has been in existence for about 60 years. Methodist services have also been held for about 40 years, and now they have a minister settled among them. A new Methodist church is in process of erection.

For the use of the Presbyterians, a room in the old barracks was generously given by Mr. Joyce, of Montreal. In this room weekly service was held during the summer. There were in all 14 Presbyterian families who contributed to the support of the missionary, and these, with the visitors, formed his audience.

Longueuil, just across the river from Montreal, is also a summer resort. It has a population of about 3600, three-fourths of whom are French. Some years ago Presbyterian services were held there, but for several years past these services have been discontinued. The Episcopalians and Methodists have regular services in this place, the resident Presbyterians and visitors forming the audience for our missionary. The total cost of these fields was \$251.17, the receipts \$116.02. The report was adopted.

The election of officers for the current year was then proceeded with and the following gentlemen were chosen:—President, W. H. Geddes; 1st Vice-President, D. Currie, B.A.; 2nd Vice-President, R. McNabb, B.A.; Recording Secretary, J. C. Campbell; Corresponding Secretary, W. A. McKenzie, B.A.; Treasurer, A. Lee; Executive Committee, Messrs D. McKay, B.A., G. Whillans, B.A., J. W. McKenzie, B.A., D. G. Cameron,