

siastical provinces coterminous with the civil provinces. A resolution regarding the depressed financial condition of St. Alban's Cathedral was passed, urging the congregations which as yet have not responded to the bishop's late appeal to make contributions towards its relief. Many words of praise were spoken on the floor of the house regarding the missionary zeal of the Woman's Auxiliary. The vexed question regarding the Toronto Rectory Surplus Fund was settled for the next five years by a concordat entered into by the rectors themselves.

### Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.

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### MISSIONARY LITERATURE AND ITS USES.\*

IMAGINE any great movement being carried on without a literature. It is impossible.

We are not all agreed on the subject of prohibition, nor do I wish in this paper to use it for more than an illustration; but how have its advocates endeavored to spread its principles? Is it not by the use of literature? Scarcely a week passes that one does not receive, through the post or pushed under the door, some paper on the subject. The result has been a great change in the temperance sentiment throughout the country. This is not a new method for spreading principles, or awakening interest in any great subject; but it is only of comparatively recent years that the cheapness of printing has made it possible.

When Almighty God desired to speak to man, He did so chiefly through his fellow-man, guiding those to whom He spoke to write down that which He had spoken for the instruction of future generations, thus forming a literature which would be a continual source of strength and life to those who should come after.

We must not forget that the Bible is an inspired volume of missionary literature, the Old Testament recording the progress of God's ancient Church, while the New reveals to us the foundation and early years of the Holy Church of Christ, of which our Church of England in Canada is a true branch.

Missionary literature is but a history of the progress of the Church of Christ in past and present ages.

The gospels contain an account of what Jesus Christ began both to do and to teach; the Acts of the Apostles is a history of the missionary labors of some of the apostles in the

early part of her existence; while the epistles are but letters written either to or from the mission field by men who went forth full of the spirit of their Master, who gave the command "to make disciples of all nations."

With the use of Holy Scripture as missionary literature, it was probably not the intention of those who appointed me this subject that I should deal. I will, therefore, say no more than that in the *private use* of the Holy Scripture, in the *regular reading* of some passage at our meetings for work, and also in our more extended *united study* at our devotional meetings, we receive more and more of His spirit whose way we are banded together to make known upon earth.

But let us now for a few moments turn to the missionary literature since the days of the holy apostles. When we read the many publications of the S.P.C.K.—histories of the early English Church, and the Celtic Church before it, with the missionary work carried on in Ireland, Scotland, and Saxon England itself—we must feel ourselves inspired to more earnest effort for the extension of the kingdom of our dear Lord in heathen and other lands.

Then, in more modern days, there are the publications of the two great missionary societies—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society; the former just completing the second century of its existence, and the latter nearing its one hundredth anniversary.

Of all the literature within our reach at the present time, there is none more full of interest than the "Classified Digest" of the records of the S.P.G.—a book of which the Archbishop of Canterbury says: "It is a book which I shall always keep near me, and I can only say that I have opened it in a very large number of places, and at every page I felt compelled to go on and compelled to read." It is a marvelous book. But this book is simply a "digest" of all the various publications put forth by the S.P.G. from its beginning down to two years ago; and if we wish to keep ourselves informed in its missionary work, we must go on reading its current literature, such as the *Mission Field* and *Gospel Missionary*, together with its annual reports. The same may be said of the work of the C.M.S. It is impossible to know anything of the work of these societies, or to take an interest in them, unless we read their literature regularly and systematically.

How *can* we take an intelligent interest in that of which we know little or nothing? And how can we know unless we read?

I am thankful to say that our own missionary society in Canada is beginning to publish its own literature. There is THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE AND MISSION NEWS. No loyal Church family in Canada should be without this magazine. One cannot read its pages

\*Read by Mrs. Ingles (Parkdale) at the annual meeting, 1894, of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Toronto.