

himself to the ministry say that he has that spirit? He does not give himself to Christ's service for Toronto or Canada, but for that place which needs him most. We reply that this ought to be the spirit of every candidate for the Gospel ministry, but no class of men, not even candidates for the ministry, are perfect, and that spirit of self-sacrifice which has led men to seek this office may be made nearly pure in almost every heart.

Now these meetings do this. The facts presented, the mission field brought in concrete form before the mind, the enthusiasm of the speakers, the magnetism of a number seeking one end, these are means that powerfully quicken that spirit.

We do not affirm that the alliance will give us more missionaries for the foreign fields. Probably it will, but that is not a necessary result. All other things being equal, a truer missionary spirit is required to consecrate a man to work among our city slums than to go to China.

But it must not be supposed that there are no dangers lurking in ambush about a society of this nature. That arising from the co-operation of sects will grow continually less, and can be avoided by the good sense of the committee and the charity of all. There is danger that the very enthusiasm on which the success of a convention depends may soon chill into coldness after its dismissal. If, however, the enthusiasm have a rational basis, little need be feared from it. Smaller dangers connected with the working of the convention, such as those arising from long papers or disputes about business, will be guarded against by the good sense characteristic of Canadians.

In closing we venture a few suggestions. More returned missionaries should be secured to address the students. What a splendid chance for a missionary to make his visit home profitable! Again, the largest possible attendance of the public should be secured. Missionary interest will be increased. Young men will be brought to think of the ministry for their life work. We think that something very practical might becomingly follow this convention at once. The folly of different denominations multiplying services at a few points on the poorly supplied mission field was dwelt on more than once. Now, cannot our college societies act on this without delay! This evil could be avoided without difficulty by consultation before appointments are made for the vacation, and by directions to the missionaries to avoid it on the field. Then, could not this scheme be used to interest our congregations more in missionary work? It is often lamented that our people feel so feebly about missions. Is the reason not this, that they know little about them? Supply them with facts, and interest will be aroused. Now, in order to do this, could not half a dozen neighboring ministers hold similar conventions in their own churches. Get before the people the great living, throbbing mission field, and let them see there one great end for which they as a Church exist to-day. Could they but be brought to feel this and act upon it, surely it would bless them, not less than those to whom the Gospel would thus be sent.

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