

work for the present lay in Winnipeg. Any further particulars of this change of plan will no doubt be furnished by the Secretary of the Missionary Society,

It was not without pain that I concluded to give up Vancouver and the dear friends I had already made there. I cannot do more now than bespeak for my successor that cordial sympathy and generous support for the work's sake which were accorded to me. In a few days I expect to be in Winnipeg, and I hope, before many weeks have passed to have an opportunity to bid God-speed on his Western way, to the man who is to have what I relinquished, the honor of forming the first Congregational Church in British Columbia.

HUGH PEDLEY.

Cobourg, Jan. 19th, 1888.

WORK FOR WOMEN.

[The suggestive article given below is from the pen of our Home Secretary, Mrs. Hall. We hope it will meet with the thought and action it deserves by the women of our churches.—PRESIDENT WOMAN'S BOARD.]

We see the question often, "what special work can the ladies do"?

A missionary was sent to Wood Bay and Pilot Mound, Manitoba, some twelve months ago. He has worked there so far without any church building. The time has come when such is an absolute necessity. This special work might be taken up by the Woman's Board. The people themselves are able to help to some extent. Already they have a parsonage for the missionary, which they have paid for in part. This is a very important station. There are several congregations meeting in private houses, railway depots, and school-rooms. Can we not give them a little assistance in erecting places in which to worship God? Could we not make some proposal, to assist in paying off debts on mission churches? Several places could be named where the congregations are sorely tried having to pay large interest on debt. If we could propose to pay twenty-five per cent. of such debts, on condition that the churches raise the balance, they might be stimulated to make the effort. By doing this in some cases, we would enable these churches to be self-supporting.

Another home work that our Board might take,

is to assist in building parsonages for our missionaries. There are a large number of the missionaries who have to pay rents out of their small salaries. If their people had a little assistance towards securing parsonages, in many instances they would be able to find such. If we could get up a parsonage fund, out of which we could vote from time to time amounts for this object, I have no doubt we should see many suitable residences erected for our missionaries, in the course of a few years. I suggest these objects, with the hope that the auxiliaries may be encouraged by having some definite thing before them. We could easily raise one thousand dollars a year for church building, and a similar amount for debt extinction, also the same for parsonage building; besides what we require for our foreign work. Let us devise liberal things for the Lord's work:

There are about four thousand female members in the churches in Ontario and Quebec. One dollar per annum from each, would realize the amount required by the above suggestions; and leave one thousand for foreign work.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

If you have any space to spare in the next INDEPENDENT, you might tell the many friends, that our cause here is being identified with the Christian work that is doing in the town; for Mr. Gerrie has been actively engaged with the other ministers in conducting the "Week of Prayer" meetings. The last of these meetings was held in our church, (Council Chamber of the Town Hall), the attendance and interest being up to that in any of the previous meetings.

Mr. Gerrie has taught a Bible-class every Sunday afternoon since coming; but we have only started the Sunday school with the new year. The attendance is small, as there are not many of us, but the prospects are hopeful for a good earnest school. We applied to Mr. Clark of the Northern S.S. for a portion of the library they had to give away, but others nearer than we are, got their applications in first. If any of our Sunday schools have libraries or library funds not needed, the school here would be thankful to receive them.

We expect to organize our church very soon. The Committee of Management, appointed pend-