

population of 116,000,000. Our Dominion is capable of sustaining vast myriads. The energies of all the Christian churches will be taxed to give the blessings of [Christian faith and civilization to the incoming overflowing populations of Europe and other lands. Our steamboat lines, our system of canals, and our railroad industries are opening up highways for commerce and mission work. The solidarity of the people of our new counties and provinces calls for the missionaries of the cross of our own denomination.

At this moment, while we write, our Government is sending missionaries of the sword and rifle to suppress the Qu'Appelle Rebellion. Indians and Half-Breeds need more the power and sweep of the Gospel than they do shot and shell. True, rebellion must be put down. But what then? Perhaps there has been too much politics and not enough Gospel. The extent of the country and its pressing need demand that we do go forward. The vegetable world has two great functions to maintain life and propagate it. Our mission is to maintain a healthy Christian vigour, and increase our membership by the conversion of sinners to God. Thanking God for the present denominational life, due largely to our College, missionary societies, INDEPENDENT, and excellent Missionary Superintendent, truly we may stimulate each other to greater zeal, and to more confidence in God, in our cause and in each other. As Pope says :

Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,  
Will never mark the marble with his name.

Melbourne, April 12th, 1885.

G. R.

MR. EDITOR,—I have been surprised at many of the statements made in late issues of THE INDEPENDENT regarding Manitoba missions. I will try to give your readers a more correct version than that already written on the subject. First, in regard to the Revs. R. and J. Brown. Those who have written in THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT have seemingly been ignorant of the fact that these brethren have not only been willing to preach but have been actually preaching ever since they came to the country. The Rev. Mr. Hall says : " We all thought they had settled down to farming." It would be well if the Missionary Superintendent would take the trouble to inform himself before he undertakes to write on mission work in Manitoba. Mr. Hall says : " *Certainly* no one that I am acquainted with, either on the Manitoba Committee or of the General Missionary Society had the *least knowledge* that our esteemed brethren wished to re-enter the ministry." Mr. Hall's acquaintance with the Manitoba Committee must be exceedingly limited, for the fact is every member of that committee knew all along that the Browns were not only ready to do mission work for the society, but were, in fact, preaching every Sunday. I have letters in my possession

from the Manitoba Committee—not only from the secretary but also from individual members—showing that the committee had the *fullest knowledge* that the Browns were ready to serve them. The matter was discussed by the committee at the meeting in Brantford in 1882. If Mr. Hall had taken the trouble to read the report of the Manitoba Committee, as found in the Year Book for 1881-82, page 173, he would have learned that " The Rev. J. Brown has organized a church at Pilot Mound with every prospect of success." And in the same report, referring to Revs. Ewing and Brown, he would have met this sentence : " Both of these brethren are prepared to devote themselves entirely to mission work in Manitoba," etc. In the face of these facts we are told that " Certainly no one of the Manitoba or Missionary Society had the least knowledge," etc. Perhaps the following extract from a letter I received from the Secretary of the Manitoba Committee, dated December 30, 1881, will throw light on the subject. I had written to the Committee respecting the work the Browns were doing and recommended that a grant be made them. The following is the answer : " The secretary was also instructed to request Mr. Brown, through Mr. Silcox, to continue his services at Pilot Mound until a suitable man can be found as a pastor (1). It was also resolved to make Mr. Brown a grant of \$100 for his services of the past year at Pilot Mound. Kindly inform Mr. Brown of these matters." For the three years following, viz., 1882-83-84, these brethren continued preaching. They divided the district into several preaching stations which they regularly supplied. If the Missionary Superintendent was ignorant of what these brethren were doing, his ignorance is inexcusable ; for the Revs. R. McKay and C. Duff were sent up to Manitoba by the Missionary Society, and I presume they reported to the society what they saw and heard. Those who were present at the Union meeting in London in 1883, will remember Mr. Duff testifying to the good work that was carried on by the Browns in the Pilot Mound district. After that Union meeting was over Mr. Duff wrote back to the Browns saying he had advised the Committee to make use of the men already on the field. This was good counsel and of course could refer to none other than the Browns. With these facts before us it is marvellous to me how the Missionary Superintendent and others can write as they have. The Browns never asked for help, they worked on year after year, and it is my judgment that the society that asked them " to continue the service until a suitable man can be found as pastor," would, if they possessed common honesty, remunerate them for their three years' faithful service (2). Brethren so well-known as these, and who had served the cause of Congregationalism so faithfully in the East for so many years, deserve better treatment from the denomination. Here is a sentence