

THE
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 1879.

INSPIRATION AND SUGGESTION.

AT the late meeting of the American Board at Syracuse, there was a great quickening of missionary zeal. There was not only the example of the late Asa Otis—who gave a million dollars to the Board—to inspire, but there was also the marvellous opening up of many lands to the messengers of peace to stimulate to nobler Christian benevolence. So we were not surprised to hear men declaring their determination to increase their gifts this year. A New Yorker said, "I will add fifty per cent." A brother from Massachusetts said, "And I, one hundred." While another from Michigan added, "And I, five hundred." These already generous donors were so inspired that nothing would suit them but increased offerings to meet the growing demands. And there will be the increase promised.

In this connection it occurs to us that our annual contributions for missionary purposes will soon be made. From Liverpool to Winnipeg, meetings to advance our missionary interests will soon be held. And we remember also that these interests will be crippled or enlarged in direct proportion to the offerings our people make. If these gifts fall short, with a sorrowful spirit we shall have to retrench. But if they exceed former years, then right gladly will we be able to enlarge our work, and we will do so. Everything depends on how the treasury will be filled. And that depends upon the people. We greatly wish we could get all our friends to believe this, that it is absolutely necessary that we should make a strong and decided effort for enlargement in Canada. Never was the time so favourable for that development as now. Never were there so many opportunities before us as now. To lose these opportunities would be serious to us as a denomination. It would be a blow to our progress from which it might take us long years to recover. Now if our friends can be made to see these opportunities, these increased demands, we have no doubt whatever but that they will largely increase their gifts.

There are two things absolutely needful to the coming Missionary campaign. We want our deputations to be fully aware of the present chances, and then plead in sermon and speech with red-hot enthusiasm. Energy, gentlemen! Energy is demanded from you who are to play the role of missionary advocates. Throw yourselves with holy abandon into your conversational wrestle with the people. Then also we want our friends of the pew to be gladly responsive to the pleas made to them. Let there be an increase of gifts to the Lord. None of us have ever given too much, many far too little. Let us redeem ourselves from puny, stunted offerings for others,

and make this coming campaign o'ertower every other by the munificence and princeliness of our efforts.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM MINNESOTA.

BROTHER EDITOR,—While "crossing the line" into the Dominion, some weeks since, I looked sharply to see where the "line" was. I could not see it. It was not meant that I should; so that when I met my brethren of the little church in Winnipeg, I could feel the force of the Master's words, "All ye are brethren."

Your correspondent has told you of the organization of the Congregational church in Winnipeg. It was a most thoroughly enjoyable occasion, and the new enterprise, under Brother Ewing, is promising. It seems to lack but one thing to secure rapid growth, that is a house of worship. I do most sincerely hope they will have the needed aid to build.

Your Congregational brethren in Minnesota have just held their twenty-fourth annual Conference. It was a thoroughly good time. The meeting was held with the oldest Congregational church in Minnesota, the First Church in the beautiful and rapidly growing city of Minneapolis. Eighty-seven of our 135 Congregational and Union churches were represented by 141 pastors and delegates, besides four secretaries of National Societies, a returned missionary, and the agent of the Chicago Theological Seminary, and the beloved and honoured President Strong of Carleton College.

We have added thirteen new churches to our roll during the year; revived one church that had been dropped, and dropped two that were practically extinct. Several of the churches had not reported at the time of meeting; but we shall number not far from 6,500 members. Fourteen new men have come into the work in the missionary churches, three into self-supporting churches. Forty more churches have been organized in five and one-half years in this State. We are growing.

Our Conference Session gave us a rich feast. Rev. G. S. Pelton of Glyndon, gave us a spicy paper on "Qualifications of a Home Missionary;" Rev. Dr. Dana of St. Paul, gave us a very carefully prepared history of our beloved College at Northfield; Prof. George Huntington of Carleton, a paper on "Religion in the Family;" J. N. Cross of Minneapolis, discussed the "Sunday Question;" Rev. C. E. Wright of Austin, a paper on "The uses to be made of the Doctrine of the Atonement;" Rev. H. A. Stimson of Minneapolis, had an elaborate paper on "Some contributions the west may be expected to contribute to the Congregationalism of the Future." This paper will appear in the January number of the "New Englander," and will richly repay its readers. Rev. J. H. Morley read a strong paper "On Revivals;" Secretaries Coe of the American Home Missionary Society, Pike and Powell of the American Missionary Association, and Brown of the American Congregational Union (Church Building), made stirring addresses on the need and the work done. Enlarged contributions made all hearts glad, our gifts to Home Missions amounting to \$4,663, instead of \$4,167 the year preceding. The Woman's Missionary Society doubled its gifts, \$285 vs. \$121. Our work opens grandly and labourers are coming to gather the harvest. L. H. COBB.

Minneapolis, Minn., October 15th, 1879.

A CANADIAN PASTOR'S IMPRESSIONS OF CONGREGATIONALISM IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Recent interesting accounts in the pages of the INDEPENDENT of the progress of our principles in Manitoba, as also a stirring editorial calling upon the churches to give themselves to increased prayers, gifts, and efforts, on behalf of our College and Missionary Society, have induced me to send to your pages an account of some things I saw and heard in Newfoundland during a recent sojourn there of three weeks.

I went in the interest of the College of B.N.A., and so hearty was the reception and so generous the response to my appeal that I cannot but think that at this season of collecting for college purposes "their zeal will provoke very many." But just a few words in general about the most exterior of the British North American Provinces. To many in our Dominion Newfoundland is not yet found. It is not only *unknown*, but also sadly *mis-known*. They regard it simply as an island in the Atlantic, of very inconsiderable size, with a barren soil and very insalubrious climate. Rocks, fog, fish, dogs, these are the images which the mention of it brings before them. A century ago it was as well, if not better, known to the poet Burns, when in his poem of "The Twa Dogs," he describes that very gentlemanly and scholarly dog "Cæsar" with his "braw brass collar" as

"Whelped some place far abroad,
Where sailors gang to fish for cod."

Possibly few even of the readers of the INDEPENDENT know that Newfoundland is the oldest of all the British Colonies, having been taken possession of in the name of Queen Elizabeth in the year 1580, forty years before the pilgrim fathers settled New England; that it is 317 miles in length by 316 miles in breadth, and has an area of 42,000 square miles; that in proportion to its size it has yielded more wealth to England with less cost of government than any of the British Colonies.

Her cod and seal fisheries have brought handsome fortunes to many of her merchants and give constant employment to an industrious, hardy, and contented population, while her copper mining—a recent industry, which yields the best copper in the world with least expense of excavating and transportation to England—promises to be in time equally as remunerative as her fisheries. Should the traveller trace her 2,000 miles of coast line, rounding many a bold headland and running up into deep bays, reaching far ahead, he will be surprised not only with many a beautiful and romantic prospect, but also by finding extensive belts of excellent timber and no inconsiderable tracts of excellent land on which may be grown in abundance all the coarser cereals, also all the ordinary root crops. True, the interior of the country, as yet but imperfectly explored, abounds in great lakes and tracts of waste land, but here too are found coal, iron, and various minerals awaiting the labour of the capitalist. The island, though not possessing a climate favourable to those afflicted with pulmonary diseases, is yet remarkably healthy, as is attested by the longevity of many of the people and the ruddy glow of health so common on the faces of those we meet. But as our main object in writing at present is rather to describe the Congregationalism of Newfoundland than its physical aspect, I now pass on to that object.

If I remember that it is only comparatively of late years that systematic attempts have been made by the leading protestant denominations to evangelize what are called the outposts of Newfoundland, it is not surprising that for many years the church now meeting in the Queen Road Congregational Chapel, St. John's, should be the only representative of our body on the island. Indeed it is only since the pastorate of the present indefatigable minister, Rev. Mr. Hall, that any really effective missionary work has been done by the church. Within a few years three mission stations have been taken up and prosecuted with vigour and success.

One is at Twillingate, a rising town about 200 miles to the north of St. John's. Here there is already a thriving church, which expects soon to be self-supporting and to which Rev. Mr. Wilson ministers.

At Random Island, Trinity Bay, a church has recently been formed and a pastor, Rev. Mr. Squires, ordained over it. By all accounts this is a beautiful and fruitful island and promises to be the centre of quite a large population. Here there is a very tasty chapel and day school, and a commodious parsonage to which is attached a farm of 200 acres of excellent land.

At Fortune Bay, in the western part of the island, there is also a most promising mission station. This is at present under the care of Mr. Thomson, a young