

Current Topics and Events.

A CONNEXIONAL RELIEF FUND.

It is gratifying to learn from so many quarters that Canadian Methodism is so generously responding to the urgent demand of the hour, and that there is the strong probability of a considerable increase in the missionary income. A quarter of a million is not too much for this Church of 185,292 members, and probably 750,000 adherents, to reach. Such an income will go far to meeting the just claims of the brethren on needy missions. Nevertheless the present pressure is none the less painful, notwithstanding the prospect of future financial improvement. The special Conference efforts to relieve present necessities should have the heartiest support. It is a cause for regret that some adequate provision was not made at the last General Conference for a great Connexional movement in the way of a sustentation fund to tide over the difficulties attending the coming together of four distinct Churches, and the consolidation of circuits and reorganization of the work. At the General Conference such a movement was strongly urged. This MAGAZINE took the ground that at least \$80,000 should be raised for that purpose. Such a fund would have met the more urgent necessities arising in the field of domestic missions, would have greatly aided the embarrassed trust funds, and would have relieved many brethren who have been almost crushed through bearing financial burdens on behalf of the Church. The instruction of the General Conference to create such a fund, however, failed to receive the necessary co-operation. We think such a fund still a necessity, and trust that the next General Conference will make provision for meeting the emergency arising from the Victoria University debt, the embarrassed Trust Funds, and the inadequate support for mission districts. This should be a general

connexional movement. It is often said that the Missionary Society is a great connexional bond. It brings every circuit into sympathy with the remotest missions—from Labrador to the borders of Alaska, and to distant Japan. It broadens our horizon and increases the sweep of our efforts. It enables the strong to bear the burdens of the weak, and so fulfil the law of Christ. We would deprecate any arrangement that would localize our efforts or restrain our sympathies within conferential bounds. We believe such a sectionalizing tendency would in the end weaken the general fund. Such a connexional movement as seems to be called for, to be a success, should have all the weight and prestige and authority that the General Conference can give it. If every society, and member, and friend will do his share, all the difficulties of the hour may readily be overcome. All that is needed is hearty and general co-operation in the movement—a long pull and a strong pull and, above all, a pull altogether.

OUR THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS.

In our remarks on the Educational work of our Church, in the last number of this MAGAZINE, we omitted reference to our excellent Theological College at Montreal. That omission was entirely inadvertent. We are too familiar with its character to be insensible to its merit. We have on more than one occasion had the privilege of taking part in its annual examinations and of observing the result of the year's work. These examinations were of a very thorough and searching character, and the examiners with one accord bore testimony to the very high average standing reached by the students of the college. Their papers gave ample evidence of great industry and energy in the pursuit of their studies, and of the distinguished ability and efficiency of the instruc-