

EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1895.

To the Reverend the Clergy, and the Laity, of the Church of England in Canada :

DEARLY BELOVED, - The teeming millions of those unnamed by the name of Christ—would you like to see them pass by, one each time the pendulum swings? Then you must stand, never tiring, never sleeping, closely watching, night and day, week after week, month after month, for more than thirty years; and then, instead of the mighty procession having come to an end, another, quite as great, of Mahomedans and Bramans, Buddhists and Shintoists, fetish-worshippers and idolaters, as hopeless, as wretched as the first, will be ready to march past. Had one the ken of omniscience he would see, year by year, more than thirty millions of heathen immortals stepping down into the chill waters of the River of Death without hope for the hereafter, uncheered by a single ray from the Sun of Righteousness. Oh, must not the exceeding bitter cry of these unhappy ones enter into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth? Does it not enter our own? Yes, no doubt we hear; but what heed do we give it? What are we Christians doing to provide these thirsty ones with the Water of Life; these hungry ones with the Bread of Heaven; these perishing ones with the garments of salvation? Listen, friends, to what you have done, during the past year, for the *ten hundred millions* of men, women, and children, with souls as dear to God as your own—souls for whom Christ died as surely as He did for yours—listen, and if, after hearing the facts, you rest contented with what you are doing or leaving undone, may the Lord have mercy on you, and awaken your consciences to a sense of your duty to your Master and your fellow-creatures.

The census informs us that in our ecclesiastical province 575,600 persons profess membership with the Church of England. During the year ended July, 1893, their contributions to foreign missions amounted, in all, to \$15,600, or the pitiful sum of two and a half cents per head. Alas, this last year the amount was still less by about one-third! "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph." The Methodist body, with a population in Canada of 839,815, expended, in the same year, \$32,000, or at the rate of three and three-quarter cents per head; while the Presbyterians, with 754,000, contributed no less than \$99,000, or thirteen and a half cents per head, to foreign missions.

How is it, dear brethren, that the contributions of *our* Church are so deplorably small? Judging from the too numerous blanks in the

report, it is evident that many congregations make no response whatever to the annual appeal. Surely, this is not right. Remember, dear friends, that your clergy have no option in the discharge of their duty. In every Church of our province is the appeal ordered by every bishop, from Nova Scotia to Algoma, to be read to our people. Are any of you afraid that your parochial interests will suffer if, from love to Christ, you send money to supply the spiritual wants of those for whom Christ died? Pray, reflect on the unspeakable gain when the Lord's apostles handed over their five barley loaves and two fishes to the hungry thousands in the desert.

There may be another reason. Some persons are, we fear, still sceptical as to the efficiency of Christian missions. Wild assertions are often made that missions to the heathen are a failure; that the money expended is thrown away. In answer, we say, most emphatically, the assertions are untrue. The Church's missions are no failure. The successful results are marvellous, when we consider the very trifling sums expended. The splendid record of missions is starred with achievements whose lustre no amount of cavil or criticism can dim. The recorded facts and the testimony of unprejudiced witnesses are all in favor of the blessings of the Gospel message.

Consider for a moment these facts. Bear in mind that the Christian missionary goes forth, not to reap in the field of science or add to the store of human wisdom. Yet, beyond question, missionaries have indefinitely increased our knowledge of the physical world; brought information concerning two hundred languages to aid philology; and without their assistance little advance could have been made in the sciences of anthropology and comparative religion. Great, in fact, has been their share in the investigation of the religions, literatures, institutions, and customs of all races of mankind.

Nor, again, does the missionary of the cross go forth as a pioneer of civilization, or to prepare the way for trade and commerce. Yet, even for civilization and commerce, the spirit of Christianity, introduced by the missionary into the rough, dark regions of the earth, has wrought wonders well-nigh incredible. Friend and foe alike testify that in the South Seas, for instance, mainly through this influence, cannibalism has been suppressed, along with human sacrifices and infanticide; law and order have been introduced, constant war has given way to peace, and the social condition of women universally elevated. In India, the fires of the suttee have been quenched; helpless infants are no longer flung into the Ganges; young men and maidens are not now hacked in pieces in the temples of cruel gods; the car of Juggernaut turns not its blood-stained wheels;