

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND IN CANADA.

EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1887

REVEREND SIR: It is our desire that this address from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada be read, as a sermon or otherwise, in the hearing of every congregation in our dioceses on Sunday, Jan. 2nd, 1887, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

JOHN FREDERICKTON, Metropolitan.
J. T. ONTARIO.
H. NOVA SCOTIA.
J. W. QUEBEC.
W. B. MONTREAL.
ARTHUR TORONTO.
E. ALGOMA.
MAURICE S. HURON,
CHARLES NIAGARA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

On Sunday next, the 9th day of January, throughout all the parishes and missions in this branch of Christ's Church, will be made our annual collections on behalf of Foreign Missions. And rightly, brethren, do we observe and celebrate the Holy Festival of the Epiphany, when we show forth our thankfulness not only with our lips but in our lives, by taking an actual and active part in the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

To take an actual and active part in Missionary work, is the bounden duty of every Christian Church and of every Christian. "Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations." That is the Great Charter of the Church. For that work the Church exists. That work she is bound to do. That work she has, as yet, but imperfectly done. And until that work is done, and thoroughly done—whilst two out of every three living in the world are still heathens—for any one who personally does nothing for the carrying out of Christ's command, and the accomplishment of Christ's purpose, to profess and call himself a Christian—to own Christ for his Master and his King is to own himself a disobedient servant and a disloyal subject.

Something we all of us *can* do to make disciples

of all nations. And something, therefore, we all of us *must* do. We cannot all go to preach the gospel to the heathen with our own lips, (though there is no reason why some should not go as well from this church in Canada as from elsewhere) but we can all in heart and mind accompany those who do. We can all help forward Missionary work by the effectual fervent prayer which availeth much. We can all of us give something, however little, for the sending forth and the maintenance of those who do get them out of their country, and from kindred, and from their father's house, and go to carry the gospel into the land whither the Lord their God sends them. We can do this, and we ought to do this. We ought to do this because our Saviour's command is upon us, and because it is good for our soul's health. Our soul's health requires that the religious emotions we have, (and amongst others this aspiration after the conversion of the world to the Christian religion which no real Christian can be without) should not be allowed to evaporate in sentiment, but should be gathered up into act and expressed in conduct.

The duty of aiding in Mission work is imperative. The benefit is apparent; and the opportunity is before us in this our annual collection. The need is always great, and never was it greater than it is now.

There are signs everywhere that the world is ripe for conversion to the Christian faith. In every quarter where trial has been made the prospects are promising. From every quarter we hear the cry, "Come over and help us." In India, with its 250,000,000 of inhabitants, where our responsibility is so great, those whose experience and character lends weight to their testimony, tell us that old beliefs are shaken, and old religions crumbling; that now, as certainly never before, is the time for the Christian army to enter in and take possession. In China, in Japan, in Africa—everywhere the way is open, if only laborers can be sent when the harvest is ripe. And if we will but send them, the laborers can be found. Only a few years ago, Bishop Patteson was felled to the ground, in one of the islands of the Pacific, with a Gospel message on his lips. And now we hear of Bishop Selwyn, surrounded by Christian converts, on the very spot where his predecessor was killed. When Bishop Hannington, but the other day, was put to death as he was pressing on to make disciples of the natives of Central Africa, volunteers, more than one, came forward for the