

Official Notices.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The following amounts have been received for the month of August:

S. C., interest G. R. M. F., \$60; A. J. R., interest G. R. M. F., \$27; Gorham estate, N. S., Dividend Bank N. S., \$126; Gorham estate, N. S., rents, etc., \$8.20; C. Page, Toronto, \$50; John Porteous, Boston, for life members, \$100.

SAMUEL N. JACKSON,
Treasurer.

Kingston, August 31st, 1890.

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Association meets with the Garafraxa Church, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 7th and 8th, 1890. The first session will be held on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30. Programmes have been sent to all the Churches in the District. The meetings give promise of unusual interest, and should be attended by a large delegation. Names which have not been forwarded should be sent at once to Rev. Jas. Webb, Belwood, Ont.

J. P. GERRIE,
Secretary.

Woman's Board.

OUR THANK-OFFERING.

The time of our "Thank-offering" is drawing near, and no doubt many Auxiliaries and Mission Bands are making plans for a special meeting in November. *Mission Studies* for September contains a number of articles on this subject; from two of which we give extracts. Mrs. Moses Smith, in reply to the question, "Why make a thank-offering?" writes:

If we would be redeemed from the ignoble and degrading power of ingratitude we need often to give expression to gratitude: we need often in word and deed to say, "Father, I thank you."

Our annual thank-offering may be a profound spiritual power in the church. To be such it must be a conscientious and sincere thank-offering. In amount it must be a fitting "I thank you" for you to say to your heavenly Father.

Two turtle doves for the poor. A lamb for the rich. The Jews were commanded to pay tithes and give offerings; our regular contributions may be regarded as a portion of the tithes which we owe to the Lord. While once in the year, with something of the reverence with which the high priest entered the holy of holies, we enter the courts of the Lord with gifts, the myrrh and frankincense of gratitude and prayer.

With respect to annual thank-offering meetings, another contributor writes:

These meetings, at first the outgrowth of a spontaneous burst of gratitude for the special blessing of God upon woman's missionary work, have become perpetually recurring feasts. The question has been asked by some in good faith, "Is there not danger that they degenerate into formality and become mere money-raising gatherings from which spirituality has departed?"

There is no need that it be thus. That which has life never lacks freshness. The apple-tree "among the trees of the wood" has put forth its blossoms for four thousand years, but its beauty was as exquisite last spring, and its fruit is as mellow this autumn, as it was in Eden. Each recurring morn is radiant with God's sunlight, each revolving year richly laden with blessings. Why should not the loving recognition be as spontaneous as the loving-kindness? Christmas-tide comes, and comes again, but the joy of giving to our beloved ones knows no diminution. It is only unwilling gifts—gifts given *because they are expected*—that lose their significance.

But it is said many give no more because of these meetings; they count upon them and by just so much they diminish their pledges. Is it right to do this? Can such offerings be really called thank-offerings? If the one who serves you in your home has been specially kind and faithful in your sickness do you diminish her weekly wages, and save the amount to buy her a gift to show your gratitude?

Would you like your little daughter to take the change she is bringing back from the store to buy a present for you because she dearly loves you? Would you not rather teach her not to use that which is already yours, but that her love-offering must in some way cost herself something? So our offering—whether small or great—let it be truly an offering of gratitude and love.

Will not those friends who are going to have such good thank-offering meetings, send some account of them afterward to Mrs. Macallum, for the Woman's Board column? "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works."

A MISSIONARY PIC-NIC.

A member of Maxville Mission Band writes as follows:

"Our Band, and the King's Stewards M. B. of Roxboro, held a thanksgiving pic-nic in the manse grounds in August. Rev. D. Macallum presided, and several old members of the Bands gave short addresses; but the chief attraction was a "real live missionary" of our own, Miss Macallum, just home from Turkey. Miss Macallum told a number of stories of the "King's Daughters" of Smyrna school.

The envelopes, containing gifts and offerings of gratitude to God, were emptied, and the little pile of silver, when counted, proved to be \$6.50. Refreshments were then served; the most interesting item on the bill of fare being "Turkish delight," brought from Smyrna by Miss Macallum. After tea the children played, and their elders talked till sunset warned all to go home.