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APPEAL FOR MEN.

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For the Review.

TO STUDENTS OF GRADUATING CLASSES.

GENTLEMEN:—No doubt you are concerned about your future field of labor, let me bring before you the wants of Western Canada. It is said there are eight of you who wish to go to foreign fields but cannot be sent because of the lack of funds. Why not volunteer for the home field? Its wants are clamant and its claims strong. Certain congregations want to call some of you. Likely, at least if no congregation in the East would have you, you would scarcely answer for the West. But these desirable congregations can get plenty of men. Why not come and serve in a weak congregation or mission in the West for a few years, and so help to lengthen the cords and strengthen the tent pegs of the Church here?

Do you know that some profane people have been saying that, judging from the way in which young men profess to be guided in the matter of settlements, it would seem as if the Lord did not concern himself much about missions or augmented congregations. If twenty-five or thirty of you were to volunteer for Home Mission Work, East and West, how easily we could meet that sneer. For the strong and wealthy congregations there are plenty of applicants.

“What openings have we?”

Well, of congregations, strong and weak, Emerson, Dominion City, Burnside, Brandon, Minnedosa, Shanks, Treherne, Indian Head, etc., may be mentioned; and of missions, Broadview, Nelson, Revelstoke, Cariboo, Wetaskewin, Yorkton, Battleford and the rest. And many of the missions, cared for by students for years, should have had ordained men long ago, but suitable men were wanting.

“Have we any growing towns where the prospects are good for building up good strong congregations?”

A score or two ask this question in the course of a season. We have not many such towns, but the prospects of building up good congregations in time, by perseverance, are good at many points. Eastern congregations did not grow up in town or country like Jonah's gourd, nor do Western.

“Are the salaries always paid in full?”

They are not, nor when poor years come could you expect it. The salaries in Ontario the West were not always paid either. We have known men there who got \$120 in a year, and lived the most of the winter on potatoes and milk. And yet men labored uncomplainingly and others are entering into their labors to-day. It should be added, however, that our people pay, if they are able, and *efficient* men seldom have reason to complain on the score of salary. From information obtained from men in authority; it can confidently be stated that

no missionaries are so well paid as ours; and, since other Churches do not fail in getting plenty of men; it is hoped we shall not be supposed to be behind them in missionary spirit. Too much has been spoken and written about arrears in salary without hearing the other side. Ex parte evidence is not always reliable; nor are you to expect in a new country the conditions in an old. If young men are not willing to run risks on even \$650 or \$700 for a year or two they ought to ask whether they have not chosen the wrong profession.

“Is not the climate cold?”

In January, February and part of March it nips, but yet the climate is salubrious. In no part of the Church is health better than in the West. And, since our people are here to stay, the climate should frighten no one of ordinary vigor.

“Have you many mansees?”

I was thinking of ——. We have a few, but we think that, for obvious reasons, only a few men should get —— at the close of the College course. Get enough past you first to make a fair start in the world. Owe no man anything for outfit or housefurnishing if possible. Men have been crippled by beginning the ministry in debt. Wait a year or two; better for both.

“Are the missions large? Is there much travelling?”

They are large, and in most of them there is a good deal of travelling. Time will speedily bring sub-divisions, however, and charges will be compact. Unless some men had cultivated large fields, and travelled bad roads in Ontario and Nova Scotia, in early days, there would not be so many inviting congregations to-day. Help us to do what pioneers did in the East.

The work has strong claims on the Church. There are more Presbyterians in Western Canada than members of any other Church. We should look after them.

The West is the growing part of the Dominion, and the Church that cares for it will grow. In the East, the Church is stationary, will you not help to make her growth steady in the West? Her spirituality will be greatly helped by every part being leavened with the Gospel. The love of country should constrain us. According to the last report of the Minister of Justice, fewer Presbyterians were convicted of crime per 10,000 than of any other Church. Help to extend a system whose effects are so beneficial to the State. This work will help Foreign Missions Christianize the West, and its wealth, when developed will be consecrated to God, neglect it now and a large revenue in future years is lost.

This work will develop your own spirituality. If effort develops muscle and brain, you will get good here. To lay your own foundations and build on them, is much more stimulating than to occupy a house built by others. Give me work in a new village in the West rather than a decaying one in the East. Youth is much more interesting than age, even though not quite so wealthy. Were you to consult Him by Whom you profess to be sent, do you not think He would send a number of you to the frontier? Would He not tell you of the scores of ministers in Ontario without charges and point you to the wide fields of the West with His sheep scattered over them with no shepherd to feed or defend them? Would you hesitate? Why do so now? The cross is the symbol of His religion, settling in a wealthy congregation is scarcely bearing a cross.

VANCOUVER, B.C., January 25, 1895.