

## The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, January 10, 1895.

### A Missionary Appeal.

MR. J. FRASER SMITH, Missionary Honan, China at present on furlough in Canada, has addressed to all the ministers of the church, a Christmas and New Year greeting in which he makes an urgent and well-sustained appeal on behalf of the great work carried on by our missionaries in the Foreign field. Some of his statements deserve very special consideration. "A number of the ministers of our church," he says, "consider that one-tenth of their income belongs to the Lord, and besides, they maintain that they are required to give 'free will offerings' over and above the Lord's portion. Many however, do not realize their responsibility to so great an extent and therefore they do not urge their people to adopt this standard. Besides, in many of our congregations there is no systematic plan adopted for collecting funds for the schemes of the church, and, it is to be feared, that some ministers refrain from advocating too ardently the claims of missions, because they are afraid that the general contributions of the congregation may be lessened thereby. As a natural result, those in charge of the different branches of the Lord's work are crying out for more funds. The call is urgent. Doors are open on every hand; men and women are ready to go, and we, as watchmen on the walls of Zion, must earnestly and conscientiously face the problem. I believe that we can do very much to bring about a more satisfactory state of affairs, and, first of all, let us pledge ourselves to begin with importunate prayer. To this end I would suggest that we devote a few minutes at noon of each day for the first eight days of 1895, waiting upon the Lord in private, and if possible, set apart Sabbath, January 13th, for the purpose of bringing the matter before the congregations somewhat in the light of Malachi iv: 5-12. Secondly, can we not pledge ourselves to give the Lord at least one-tenth of our salaries for 1895, and resolve to tell our people that we are doing so and urge them to adopt a like standard? Our salaries last year amounted to the sum of \$921,395. If we give one tenth of this sum next year it will amount to \$92,139. Supposing we give only one-half of this amount to the mission work of our church, and allow the other half to be divided among the other schemes and the regular congregational work. Even then we will be able to give \$46,069 or exactly one-fifth of the grand total given last year for Home Missions, Augmentation, French Evangelization and Foreign Missions. The total amount given last year for the above schemes,

including what was collected by the W. F. M. S., was \$230,311. We can easily give one-tenth of this sum, and I believe that each minister can persuade, on an average, two men in his congregation to give an equal sum with himself, and thus from only three families in each congregation we might secure three-fifths of the amount given last year. Besides, in answer to our prayers, we feel assured that our earnest endeavors with the remainder of our members will result in such liberal offerings that the treasury of the Lord will be full." The suggestions contained in this message are worth a trial. Let each minister and member and adherent give according to the measure of his or her ability, but give something, and to that end ministers and office bearers ought to adopt active means. The liberal church is usually the prosperous church. A church's prosperity lies in its spiritual welfare and a spiritual quickening would result in increased liberality to the cause of Christ. The claims of the Foreign field are exceptionally strong and the devoted missionaries, whose labors are of a nature more arduous and momentous, than but comparatively a few are aware of, ought to receive every encouragement possible to give them by material aid and constant prayer.

### A Hand-Book on Missions.

The Secretary of Foreign Missions has prepared a Hand-Book, in the form of Question and Answer, on the mission fields under the care of the western section of the church, that can scarcely fail to be appreciated. The intention evidently is to put in the briefest possible form the condition and needs of the fields at the present time, and we do not see how it could have been better done. There is not a superfluous word in it, and yet it has nothing of the flavor of a statistical table. The children in the Sabbath Schools can understand it, and it is just what older people want to know, but do not feel disposed to wade through the usually too voluminous annual reports to find. We do not think anything has yet appeared in connection with our missions that so precisely meets the need as this catechism does, on the title page, it is stated that they can be supplied in quantities for one cent each. That is cheap enough. A free distribution throughout all our congregations will accomplish the object Mr. MacKay has in view, but that cannot be accomplished by him. Upon the Sessions and especially the ministry, must always depend the success or failure of any effort to inform the church as to the world's needs and the methods adopted to make the world's Saviour known. Unless there is a positive aversion, to foreign mission enterprise, or an indifference which is nearly as bad, we can scarcely imagine an excuse for neglecting this opportunity to widen the interest and quicken the church's pace in executing the Lord's command.

### A Priest on Preaching.

The members of the Homiletic Society in connection with Union Theological Seminary were addressed on "Methods of Preaching," by a priest, the Rev. Alex. r. Doyle, a Paulist Father. He was cordially welcomed and introduced to the students by Rev. Professor Briggs. The substance of what he said to them may be given as revealing the thoughts of a leader in the Roman Catholic body on an interesting topic. He said:—"With us, to train a student for the life of the mission-