

not many of our churches who are able to afford an ample salary, and the sum supplemented by our Missionary Society is necessarily such, as to leave it still small. Hence when a man is placed over a weak church in the hope that he will build them up, he has not only to contend with a small salary but is left with little hope of increasing it; for should he be successful in improving the pecuniary condition of the church, the first application of such increased funds must be to lessen or wipe off the missionary grant. The hope of his means being improved is deferred, thrust indefinitely forward into the future.

Is it to be wondered at, that a more promising opening attracts him away? Thus the budding hopes of the infant church are crushed. A few such disappointments, with long periods without a pastor between them, will do much to lessen the prospects of such a church. Some of our weak churches have been tested with *many* such painful experiences. It is hard to find a man who will deny himself to the extent required, and labour with a weak church, on an insufficient salary, when as good a prospect of usefulness is open to him, with a more ample support. Are we prepared to pronounce an unqualified condemnation on him?

After a time the Missionary Committee may succeed in finding another man to visit the little flock so deserted. He goes with the feeling that it is an experiment, the church feel it is an uncertainty. Some who have been seeking homes in other congregations, hesitate to break up and go back to an experiment which may leave them again in a few months like sheep without a shepherd.

So the test is no a fair one. We cannot fairly test an opening till we can give the people something like an assurance that the cause is to be a permanent one. No cause can be strong with a doubtful existence.

Every wreck of an abandoned church weakens the influence of the denomination through the section of country in which it is found.

If then we are to be aggressive in Canada—and we must be if we are apostolic—we must wisely select our positions, and plant our men down letting them feel they are to be sustained, letting our people feel that they need not be afraid to come home, for we are not going to break up housekeeping every few months, but that the church is a settled fact.

Our chance of success, humanly speaking, will be proportioned to the prospect of the permanency of our causes. Where there is denominational rivalry, it is no uncommon thing for our people to be taunted with their weakness, be told they cannot stand.

Our sites for missionary effort must be carefully chosen, and then in the name of the Lord we should set down our stakes, and fling our banner to the breeze, and let the feeling be engendered that this is not an experiment. We should usually select towns likely to grow and become centres of population, because in them there will be more of our homeless sheep found, and because there is more probability of helping rural districts from these centres, than the reverse. Promising towns where we have already been should have the precedence.

It will cost more at first to do this, but it is a waste of money to be longer experimenting. We want self-denying men for such posts, but we must not tax their self-denial beyond endurance, nor be impatient of results. "Rome was not built in a day."

W. H. A.

Paris, March 26th, 1868.