

OUR PROVINCIAL WORK.

W. H. HARDING, Minister Christian Church,
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For a number of years efforts have been made to raise funds from the different churches for the support of weak churches and the salary of an evangelist.

There is a prevailing idea that this work has not, and is not, being maintained as it should.

As we read of the steady growth of the work of the American Boards, both Home and Foreign, we would wish to have the same true of our work in these provinces. Evidently the work has not commended itself to the people. Can anything be done to make it do so?

The following table will show at a glance the different amounts raised each year since 1884 by the Home Mission Board of N. B. and N. S.

1884	\$ 048 73
1885	687 62
1886	491 41
1887	591 19
1888	240 88
1889	383 08
1890	381 06
1891	500 63
1892	605 29
1893	719 30
1894	786 66
1895	1213 42
1896	855 60
1897	506 58
1898	609 96
1899	603 54

Since 1884 nearly \$10,000 have been raised and expended in these two provinces for Home work, this exclusive of what the general board has done. What have we to show for that money? What new churches? What weak churches that have become self-supporting? It is true, some churches have grown stronger, but other have grown weaker; and I venture the assertion that to-day we as a body in these provinces are no stronger numerically nor financially, than we were in 1884. I do not say this to discourage, nor am I a pessimist, but I do say we need different methods of work.

The board wants more money, How can it get it?

1st. By putting the money they have to such good use that the people will want to help, and one way to do this is to put an evangelist in the field who will accomplish something. I think the Mission Board should be governed by the needs of the field and the wants of the people, rather than the whims of one or two preachers.

2nd. Let prominent men among us send in their names with an amount, and let their names come out in print. Let our preachers and business men lead in this and when people see that we are giving as well as asking for others to give, they will respond more liberally. I do not say that these men do not give, but let them use their names with the gift and it will stimulate somebody else to give.

We have good men and true on our board, but they cannot work without means and the people are not inclined to give unless they see the work done. I am in hopes to see each province do its own mission work after this year. I believe that will be a step in the right direction. How best to carry on the work of the Master, and not sentiment, should govern us. I am not writing this so as to please somebody, but because I think we need some changes in our system of work. We need more people interested in our home work, that means more money, and as a result more work. "We must work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work."

HOME MISSIONS IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

R. BENTLEY RAY, Minister Coburg St. Christian Church,
St. John, N. B.

The most important question before the Disciples of Christ in the Maritime Provinces to-day is the question of home missions. I feel sure that it can be truthfully said that the Disciples of Christ in the Maritime Provinces have given more to foreign missions than a like number of our people anywhere. You may wonder at this, but nevertheless it is true.

Look at the men who have gone out from among us to labor in the gospel among the people of the United States, which for all practical purposes is a foreign work to us. Such men as McLean, Lord, Craig, men who though belonging to the disciples of the Maritime Provinces spend their lives in Christian work in another country. And then there are a host of other ministers of the Gospel, some of whom may be found in almost every state of the union from Maine to California, who come into the church here in these provinces. Through the efforts of these men as missionary workers, editors, educators and preachers, thousands are added every year to the home strength of our brethren in the States. Indeed it would pay our brethren in the neighboring country to contribute freely to the home mission work in these provinces for the sake of the excellent preachers that they receive.

Not only have we given preachers, but lay members as well in large numbers. Wherever we have a congregation in New England there earnest in the work will be found provincial people in varying numbers from a few to half the congregations. Our church officers are giving letters continually, not singly but to whole families. Nobody complains at this, we are rather thankful, but it shows us things; the worth of the home field and the need of sustaining the home work. We must depend upon the home field altogether; for while our church officers are giving letters continually we are receiving none. This cannot continue long unless we turn at once our hearts, our labors and a good portion of what we have to give toward the home work.

That the field is fertile the fruits of the past abundantly testify. Brethren, think of home work, for upon it depends every other part of the work.

It is a wise husbandman who before he parts with his harvest retains enough of what he has gathered to sow his own fields.

MILTON'S MISSIONARY LETTER.

WILLIAM STIFF, Minister Christian Church,
Milton, N. S.

The heart of our Home Missionary Society should be made at this time to overflow with gratitude to our Father, God, not only because the fields are already ripe for the harvest, but because of the evidence already manifested through the work and labor of love of our home missionaries and of the divine benediction shown in the rapid strides made by the Church of Christ in the salvation of lost souls. When we think of the increase made by the special evangelistic work of our American preachers, we have much cause to rejoice that God's multiplication comes so

near our fair Dominion; and our prayers should ascend, that we may be made partakers of this joy and see not only our special efforts but all our labors crowned with success. Doors are now opened, fields now ready, men anxious as never before, and can we not, brethren, at times truly say we hear the Macedonian cry for the pure unadulterated gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which inspires our messengers, in all times, and at all places, where their lot may be cast? Now that we have the Word of God—Sword of the Spirit—and his divine promises that the water shall not overflow us, that when the enemy shall come in like a flood the Spirit shall lift up his standard against him, let us quit ourselves like dying men who stand before dying men, holding out the only hope for their eternal salvation.

Let us ever have before us, both individually, and as a church collectively, one supreme object, and endeavor with every energy and self-sacrifice to sweep away existing obligations and to roll up a substantial fund for the furtherance of Christ's cause and the extension of his kingdom in these provinces whose "hands are full of freedom's fruits for which all the world awaits."

HOME MISSIONS.

HOWARD MURRAY, Minister Christian Church,
Westport, N. S.

It has been said "that there should be no distinction between home and foreign missions." The work of missions is the application of truth to others, whether at home or abroad. But while mission work does not end at home it surely commences there. No one would be so unwise as to let the wants of a stranger divert his mind from the imperative needs of home work or in any way to relax his energies in behalf of home missions.

The work of missions must be woven into our faith and practice, if not, our religion would be as vain and useless as faith without charity—"as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal."

Truth is as essential to our religious life as food is to our physical life, but to make it of any special benefit to ourselves we must apply and appropriate it to others. This application of truth to others is the essential element of soul-food. A selfish appropriation of divine truth is absolutely useless. We must diffuse and apply the truth. We must go and preach the gospel. There is not a promised blessing of the gospel that can be of any benefit to us unless we seek to share it with others. Receiving and diffusing are inseparately connected in the work of redemption. We cannot, therefore, omit the work of missions without sacrificing the gospel of Christ. The cup of cold water if received may benefit us physically, but to make it a spiritual blessing we must share it with others. "We must never pray for God to open the windows of heavens and pour us out a blessing until we bring in our tithes." The only conceivable reason that we find churches to-day that have no growth and no special blessings, is because they have no interest in home missions or any other mission beyond their own threshold. Such a church may claim to be "sound in the faith," but it is a soundness that is brassy. The increased interest in missions is a hopeful sign of the times. The church begins to realize that our blessings in the next world must be measured by our interest in the salvation of others.