

The Canadian Missionary Link

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RE THE ADVANCE in our work for the year our Secretary sends us the following.

One Associational Director writes: "When your postal reached me I had already written to and received answers from each Circle in the Association saying that they would gladly try to raise *one-sixth more* this year than ever before for Foreign Missions and if possible a little extra for Home. Even——church I believe is going to fall into line this year. Knowing that you would be gratified to hear of our intention and hoping that we may be abundantly successful in our effort."

A pastor's wife writes that although there are only *seven women* in the church and consequently their Circle is very small, yet she can safely say that they will give *one-sixth more* to Foreign Missions to help the onward move of our Mission Work.

Another writes: "The delegates from this Circle introduced the *one-sixth* item when they came home from Hamilton, and we took it up, so that it was adopted by this Circle before I received your card, hoping that all Circles will do likewise as the money is much needed."

A Young Ladies Circle has decided to give *one-fifth more* to Foreign Missions this year. This is in no way to interfere with the contribution to Home Missions.

ENNA.—The name of Mrs. Wm. Craig, Jr., of Port Hope, was accidentally omitted from the list of names sent us for publication last month.

A letter from Miss Priest describes the journey of our Missionary party, covering about the same ground as Miss Murray's letter which we publish this month. One item of personal interest in Miss Priest's letter was that in London she visited the Mission S. School she attended when a girl, and had the pleasure of speaking to the school.

HOW WE HELPED PAY THE MISSIONARY DEBT.

BY DENIS WORTMAN, D. D.

With prices high and the treasury low,
The cash goes fast, the churches slow,
And what to do they do not know—
Our friends in the Mission Board; and so
Our elders and deacons met last night
To do their best to set things right,
And it may be pleasant for you to hear
What we did for the cause we hold so dear.
The roll was called, and all were there;
"Brother Brown," said the chair, "please lead in prayer;"
And long and stoutly labored he
To bring to the dear Lord's memory
All he had done from creation till now,
And all he expected to do, I trow;
What else I don't recall somehow

An exhaustive digest, I'll allow—
Especially long on this did he stand,
That we had been born "in a Christian land."
Last meeting's minutes read and approved,
That they "take up the matter in hand" was moved.
The Pastor brought out the documents,
Letters from missions, with wise comments,
And to the task themselves they set
Of liquidating the "Foreign Debt."
First sat they all in silence dumb,
Eyeing each other and twirling the thumb;
But by and by Elder Jones did break
The silence to say how his heart did ache
For the heathen that must meet their doom
In case, because of financial gloom,
Some missionaries home must come;
And he wished there might be some one yet
With one big gift to lift the debt.
Then rose Deacon Smith, and said, with a lurch,
"We've been bored long enough with these Boards of
the Church.

And it ain't to be borne any longer, I think.
Ha! boards ought to swim; if they can't, let 'em sink.
If missionaries won't board themselves it's a sin,
Talk of 'Boards,' better hold tight on to your tin,
And nail up some boards in the house you are in!"
Elder White rose to say he had nothing to say,
But this trouble of Missions did on his heart weigh;
Yet he was afraid it did not pay
To send so much money so far away;
"Talk of heathens, we've lots of 'em here—and to spare
Trust the Lord to provide for the heathen out there.
My family expenses run very high,
A new suit, and new horses and coach I must buy,
And some silks and some satins for daughters and wife.
I can't spend a cent, to save my life,
For those heathen; I wish I could,
And were I as rich as you, I would—
Yes—give something handsome; but on the whole
I can't give a red—to save a soul!"
This seemed pretty rough to one or two;
Brother Robinson said: "We ought something to do
We have money enough, a collection take;
If not for the Cause, for conscience' sake."
And the tears of the good man were fair to see
As for God and charity pleaded he.
On this the Pastor took fresh heart,
That in moving the debt they'd bear their part;
So the motion in due form was made
To do what they could toward having it paid.
Now it happened somehow to come across
The mind of a brother—for rhyme call him Ross—
A man of parts and happy invention,
A right good plan of his to mention.
Says he: "You remember Centennial Year,
When our Church wished to raise some millions clear
For the honor of God, and all wished to tell
At the close of the year they had done so well,
A sort of arrangement was made with the Lord,
That whatever we gave, however absurd,
For our ecclesiastical use, he'd record
As meant to promote his kingdom and word
(Though whether *he* so understood we've not heard);