

This is but one department of the new sphere of usefulness open to the District Committees. The missionary work as a whole, within their own bounds, is now to be in their charge. But we cannot expatiate at present on all that this involves.

5. The shaking up of our nests that we are now called upon to undergo, will force upon us the question, whether some new arrangements in regard to our missionary churches may not be necessary, especially in the direction of a more general combining of two or more churches within practicable distances from each other, under one pastorate. It is pleasant and desirable for each church to have a pastor to itself, and to have two services a day. But if their numbers are small, and their means limited, the minister is stunted for want of expansion, and he is either pinched by poverty or made to depend year after year on missionary funds. Our people have much to learn in regard to this subject. There is too much thinking of their own parish alone. There is too little readiness to sustain a Sabbath prayer meeting, should the preacher not be present. We are persuaded that if contiguous churches were more frequently united, ministers would "be also enlarged" with the enlargement of their field, churches wishing more frequent services would bestir themselves to secure them, and missionary funds would be set free for the extension of the work.

The further development of this subject is worthy of the pens of our missionary secretaries and experienced missionaries. The *Independent* can be put to no better use than to convey their thoughts to the entire brotherhood.

We have not much fear as to the working of the new scheme. There are elements of power and promise in it, features sounder and healthier than in the preceding one. The Colonial Missionary Society is dealing with us as the Empire is dealing with the Colony at large—aiming to have us take our full share of responsibility, to develop our self-reliance, and to train us to ecclesiastical manhood. The faulty part of the arrangement is, that their grant is too small. But this can be corrected another year, if not now. There were weak places in our system that needed amendment. There were defects of administration that could be better exposed from without than from within. It will be for the lasting benefit of the mission that there has been an overhauling of our proceedings. The unfortunate friction attending the introduction of the plan we shall do best to forget. That was but a passing incident, and let it pass. The essential change effected is in the right direction; and when we understand it thoroughly, and work it well, we shall feel how great an improvement it is upon the old. The little book that has been bitter in the mouth, will be sweet in the belly. Let the District Committees use their new powers with fidelity, and work up every part of the field, and we shall have another tale to tell when we meet at Montreal next summer.