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Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 3, 1887.

\$250,000
FOR MISSIONS
FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Methodist Missions.

THE report of the General Mission Board at Montreal speaks hopefully of the foreign work. As to the Indian work, the reports from the North-West are, on the whole, encouraging; but the Pacific Coast work demands extension. The report then proceeds to speak as follows:—

THE FRENCH WORK.

The year has been one of much anxiety and not a few changes in the French work. The small stipends paid, coupled with the discouragements of the work itself, have caused the retirement of several labourers from the field. The resignation of Mr. Beaudy left the French District without an official head, and necessitated an entire readjustment of the work. For the time being the French Missions are connected with the English districts, within the bounds of which they are located, and it is expected this arrangement will continue till such time as the number of missionaries, and their knowledge of Methodist doctrines, discipline, and usage, will justify the reorganization of the work as separate districts.

The gravest problem which the Dominion of Canada has to face is the attitude of the French population, not because it is French, but because it is Roman Catholic in a sense which makes it intensely anti-Protestant and anti-British. Every year the danger to our free institutions becomes more threatening, and the grasp of the hierarchy more fixed and unyielding. Ultramontane Rome dominates with absolute sway the political, educational, and social life of the Province of Quebec, and holds the key of the

political situation in other Provinces of the Dominion. It is the sinister power behind the throne in matters of legislation; it is the only power which dares to interfere with the administration of justice; and its avowed policy is to dominate in every sphere, whether pertaining to Church or State.

If relief is ever to come, it must be through educational and evangelical agencies and the spread of information. The French are a people of many excellent qualities; and, under the influence of free churches and free schools, would become an invaluable part of our population. But if the agencies referred to are to be effectual, better methods are imperatively demanded. The Church can no longer afford to play at French Missions. She must either sanction comprehensive plans and large expenditure, or else retire from the field. A few imperfectly-trained missionaries, dispersed among a hostile population of a million and a quarter, and unsupported by those educational appliances that are deemed essential in other departments of missionary work, are placed at an immense disadvantage. The expenditure of six or seven thousand dollars per annum makes a poor showing against an adversary whose resources are practically unlimited. The demand of the hour is for concentration. Scattered forces make a feeble impression; a wavering policy invites defeat. The Church must settle definitely the Plan of Campaign, and resolutely fight it out on that line. The defences of Rome seem to be impregnable, but there are at least two forces by which they can be entered. These are colportage and education. In saying this, we do not undervalue direct evangelistic work, nor would we withdraw a single missionary from the field; but it is not desirable to increase that agency until we can send forth men who are thoroughly trained, and for that training the Church must make provision. While this is in progress the other agencies can be employed to almost any extent, and so prepare the way for the work of direct evangelization.

HOME WORK AND STATISTICS.

This the report speaks of encouragingly. The total expenditure was \$189,286, an increase of \$7,617. The total income was \$201,874, an increase of \$12,062. The surplus to be applied to the reduction of debt is \$12,588.

The statistics of our mission fields for the past year show the following results:—Domestic missions, 415; missionaries, 426; members, 43,255; net gain, 4,457. Indian missions, 44; missionaries, native students, teachers, and interpreters, 102; members, 4,216, net gain, 224. French missions, 12; missionaries, lay agents, and teachers, 17; members, 275; net gain, 28. Japan—Missions, 10; missionaries and assistants, 26, of whom 19 are natives; members, 781; net



A JAPANESE TEA HOUSE.

gain, 190. Chinese Mission, 1; paid agents, 4; members, 15. Grand totals:—Missions, 482; missionaries and other paid agents, 574; members, 48,542; net gain for the year, 4,914.

PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows how each dollar of income was divided last year between the different departments of the work:—

	Cts.	Mills.
Domestic Missions	40	0
Indian Missions	19	3
French Missions	3	7
Chinese Mission	0	6
Japan Missions	10	0
Mission premises	4	2
Affliction and supply	0	3
Superannuated missionaries	2	1
District, Circuit, and Conference Treasurers' expenses	2	8
Annuities, in consideration of donations	0	6
Interest, discount on drafts, etc.	3	0
Publishing charges (Annual Reports, Reward Books for Juvenile Collectors, etc.) ..	2	0
Travelling expenses	0	2
Cost of management	4	0
Reduction of Debt	6	4
	100	0

A Japanese Tea House.

THE Japanese life is largely out of doors, or at least is largely exposed to the view of the passer-by. The rooms are divided from each other and from the street by slight frames on which paper is pasted as shown in the picture. There is very little furniture in the houses—only a few pieces of matting, a few low tables, a few rugs and

lamp, and a few ornaments—except in the houses of the rich. The tea houses correspond to our inns, with this difference, that instead of vile and pernicious liquor they furnish delicious tea, a difference altogether in favour of the Japanese.

Mission Notes.

WE devote a good deal of space in this number to missionary sketches and the like. The time is approaching when the special Christmas offerings and collections for missions will be made in our schools. The best way of keeping Christmas is to give something, as well as to receive. It is very gratifying that such progress is being made in the annual givings of our schools. During the last year these juvenile offerings have increased from \$20,762 to \$25,526—an increase of \$4,764. If a similar increase could be secured every year the schools would soon do something like their share of this great missionary effort. At present they raise about one-eighth of the income of the Missionary Society. In England the schools raise about one-third. If our schools would only do as well as the schools in Montreal they would soon do this. We have not last year's figures at hand, but the year before the Sunday-schools in the Montreal District alone raised for missions \$4,475, or more than one-fourth of what was raised by all the other schools of the entire Methodist Church. This shows what can be done by systematic giving and collecting. Will not all our other schools try to imitate the missionary zeal of those in Montreal.