

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

As the middle of April is near at hand and the time for closing the accounts of the year approaches, the lamentable state of our finances becomes apparent, and the almost certainty that no part of the quarter, usually paid early this month, can be sent to the brethren, until a portion of next year's receipts is available.

At this date there are six hundred dollars to be paid of money borrowed in January for that quarter. That amount, or nearly so, at least, may be expected from the contributors not yet heard from; but unless the churches at Toronto stir themselves effectively on this behalf, more than the \$600 cannot be expected, perhaps hardly so much.

Now, this is a melancholy and unprecedented state of things. We have for several years closed the accounts with a very inadequate provision for the last - the July - quarter, but that due in April has been paid. The exact state of the case now is that the year's income from all sources will simply pay one-half the amount of the year's grants; but, as compared with former years, it leaves unpaid and unprovided for one fourth of said grants which have heretofore been met. And this state of matters, of course, diminishes the grant from England for next year; as that amounts to twenty per cent. of our own contributions.

It follows from this aspect of the case:

1. That the missionary pastors cannot be paid the quarter now due, and that their claims will have to be dealt with by the Society at its meeting in Kingston in June.

2. That there must be a very great diminution of expenditure in order to bring it within the amount of receipts. That diminution ought to have been partly made last June, on which occasion I took pains to lay the state of the Society before the constituency. (See the report and my paper.)

3. That it will not meet the case to proceed in anticipation of better times and larger contributions to discount the future. When we have in hand the results of better times and more generous contributions, we may with all propriety appropriate them. Meanwhile, we have to deal with the case as it actually stands.

4. That the Society should meet at Kingston to consider thoughts and plans having been already made matter of prayerful reflection by the friends of the Society throughout the country. Shall there be a new departure? If so, what? Who are the men, and where to work the thing up to a high degree of efficiency? It is on record that I am ready and would be glad to be relieved of my office of treasurer. By what means can our men with means be induced to give like several members of the church in Kingston one hundred dollars a year. How can the standard be raised all along the line? It should be remembered that the General Commission for this year will not meet earlier than a few hours prior to the Annual Meeting, and therefore cannot be expected to present any specific suggestions. Let all come with something thought out! Let the District Committee carefully consider the case and present their suggestions.

An appeal on behalf of the many members of our congregations who are proceeding to Manitoba has been presented by Rev. R. Hay: a very proper appeal. How is this to be answered? The Maritime Provinces detach their mission from our society in July next, this, so far, leaves us free for Manitoba; but even with that relief our present rate of giving will leave us helpless.

HENRY WILKES.

Montreal, 11th April, 1879.

St. Nicholas.

New York: Scribner & Co.

The May "St. Nicholas" will contain no less than seven short stories, besides the two serials. Among the former will be the conclusion of Harriet Prescott Spofford's story of "The Boy Astronomer" and an astounding tale about a certain "Rudolph Don Pedro Livingstone," whose birth and adventures are said to be as lively as they are original.

News of the Churches.

THE Rugby people visited their pastor on the 25th ult., at the parsonage. They came laden with good things. They filled his flour-bin and larder, read an excellent address, went home rejoicing and made glad the hearts of the pastor and his wife. These people have surely read Gal. vi. 6.

IN consequence of the refusal of Rev. E. C. W. McColl, to take the pastorate of the church in Quebec city as a mission church, a meeting of the church and congregation was called, a subscription list opened, and the difficulty quite overcome. Mr. McColl resumes the pastorate, and the people who are very determined, self-sacrificing, and enthusiastic about the matter, with their pastor, anticipate good work in this hard field for Christ.

REPORT from Scotland, Ont., from Bro. Hay tells of very successful Union meetings in Burford. The meetings were commenced by Rev. E. P. Hammond. Members of the different churches have been greatly quickened and united in prayer and labour for Christ. The good brother received twenty-three into fellowship last Sabbath and there are more to follow. May the revival wave which has spread over Brantford, Chatham and Guelph cover the whole land.

THE church at Frome under the guidance of its pastor, Rev. W. J. Cuthbertson, has opened a preaching station at Sheddton where there is a rapidly increasing population. Subscriptions are being gathered for the erection of a new church, and there promises to be an opening for work in Sheddton which will materially help the work in Frome, as they will be under one pastorate and are situated sufficiently near to be easily and thoroughly worked together. We wish our friends good success in their undertaking, so successfully carried on in spite of hard times.

A MEMBER of the Thistleton church writes us as follows:—"The Thistleton Congregational church building, at St. Andrew's, Etobicoke, was rented to the Good Templars, by the month, for \$1.50, upon the express condition that they resign possession upon receiving two or three weeks' notice to quit. They paid one month's rent and afterwards refused to pay either more rent or leave the building. Two out of five trustees refused either to require them to pay rent or leave the chapel, and they also signed an agreement allowing them to remain in the chapel for an indefinite length of time without paying any rent. This put the church to great inconvenience for the space of over two years. The church at last sought legal advice, and in accordance with advice given sued them in the Division Court, and yesterday, 4th April, 1879, got a verdict in its favour for \$51.00, being back rent for two years and ten months. The judge informed the two trustees that by their action they made themselves liable for the rent. I think by the above decision we are in a fair way to get possession of our chapel."

ZION AND WATFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.—The Rev. H. J. Colwell was installed pastor of these churches on the 2nd inst. At Zion the service was held in the afternoon. Rev. R. Hay and W. H. A. Claris took part in the exercises. Deacon Tuckham, in behalf of the Church, gave a brief statement of what had led them to invite Mr. Colwell to be their pastor. Mr. Colwell gave in a few words his reason for accepting the invitation, and also stating that it was not only his intention to consider himself a pastor of the Congregational Church, but also as a minister of the *Universal Church of Christ*, and as such he should endeavour to serve all Christians and help in every good work in their midst. The Rev. R. Hay then gave the charge to pastor and people; giving some excellent thoughts concerning their relation to one another and to their Master's cause generally. After which W. H. A. Claris gave a short address on the distinctive principles of Congregational Churches. On the evening of the same day a similar service was held in the Watford church, when Mr. Hay spoke on our principles and Mr. Claris addressed the pastor and people. The congregations were good and everyone seemed pleased and hopeful. On Wednesday evening, notwithstanding the cold and storm, the Watford Sunday School

met and had a very pleasant time. The church was well filled. The pastor took the chair and Miss McLay presided at the organ. Mr. White gave some excellent readings. The children sang Sunday School hymns. Rev. R. Hay and Mr. Claris gave short addresses. Prizes were then distributed to the children, and the meeting was dismissed by the pastor.

OSPREY. Some time ago there was a brief account of the gracious work in Osprey, which continued until a large number were led to Christ. One thing that struck me particularly about the movement, there, was the number of persons who were enabled to trust in the Lord under the *direct preaching* of the Gospel. Before we spoke to them in the inquiry meeting we found them rejoicing in Jesus. The last night I was there a large number of people came forward and declared that they had found rest to their souls, and had cast in their lot with the people of God. Following are a few extracts from a letter I received a few days ago from Mr. Dugald McGregor, one of the young men received into fellowship. "Two young converts came to our house requesting my sisters, brother and me to go over on Wednesday coming as they were anxious to begin a prayer-meeting. We went, the attendance was good, we united our voices in praise, prayer, and reading the Scriptures, making a few remarks on the word read, and encouraging each other. Since then the attendance has increased. There are now *three* prayer-meetings weekly—two held in our *log church*—one on Sabbath evening, one on Wednesday evening, and one on Friday evening. Last night I was there, although the evening was very stormy, there were fifty young persons present, not including the aged. Some of the young converts came a distance of five miles. I read the xiv. chap. of John, and addressed a few words of encouragement to them. Before the meeting came to a close some arose to pray in public who never did so before. The work has not been one of mere transient excitement. While engaged in conversation with some of the young people, they have told me that they have indeed found the 'Pearl of Great Price,' while attending your meetings. That the Holy Spirit had indeed revealed Jesus to many souls I have no doubt how many I am unable to say. It is also evident that those hitherto careless and indifferent are anxious." These extracts are so much better than anything I could write about the work in Osprey that I have given them pretty fully. I trust the people may soon have some earnest devoted servant of Christ labouring among them. The Lord is doing great things in our midst, and is willing to do greater things than these, if we as His servants and people are willing to be used. May the churches receive the baptism of power for service, then indeed a great multitude of souls will be gathered to Jesus.—R. McKAY, *Evangelist*.

Religious News.

It is proposed to commence the formation of a Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, which has hitherto been left in the hands of other denominations. The subject is under the consideration of the London Presbytery.

DR. NEWMAN has never thought it necessary, because he is a Catholic, so swear by the Pope's baker and candlestick-maker, and he is far too much of an English gentleman to like or to imitate the manners and fashions that sometimes find favour in Rome.—*Truth*.

SINCE the death of Rev. Dr. Ingram of Unst, Shetland, the oldest ministers of Scotch Free Church are Rev. A. Keith, D.D., who was ordained in 1816, and Rev. Thomas Hislop who was ordained in the same year. Dr. Keith is the sole survivor of the ministers who subscribed the circular calling the memorable convocation in 1842.

The "Church Missionary Intelligencer" for March gives particulars of the murder of Mr. Penrose of the Victoria Nyanza Mission. It seems that he unwisely left the Arab caravans under whose escort he was travelling, and while passing through the uninhabited country called Mgunda Mkhali, was attacked by robbers and killed, with his porters from the coast.

A ROME despatch says Cardinal Nina, Papal Secretary of State, has received an important dispatch from Bismarck. The difficulties preventing an understanding with Germany are probably ended. Several ecclesiastics who separated from the Church because of the proclamation of infallibility have secretly submitted to the Pope, and more are expected to follow their example.