

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CANADA.  
EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1888.

REVEREND SIR:—It is our desire that this address from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada be read, as a sermon or otherwise, in the hearing of every congregation in our dioceses on Sunday, January 1st, 1888, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

JOHN FREDERICTON, Metropolitan.  
J. T. ONTARIO.  
J. W. QUEBEC.  
W. B. MONTREAL.  
ARTHUR TORONTO.  
E. ALGOMA.  
MAURICE S. HURON.  
CHARLES NIAGARA.

To the members of the Church of England in Canada—Greeting:

BRETHREN IN CHRIST: The Church in Canada, through her Board of Missions, addresses you to-day on a subject of vital importance to her own welfare, and to the honor of that blessed Lord and Master whom she serves. The missionary work of the Church—it has been often said, and yet it can not be too deeply impressed upon the hearts of Christ's people—is the first and highest purpose of her very existence. To preach the Gospel to every creature, to make disciples of all nations,—this is the noble mission, this first and before all other work, for which the Lord Christ commissioned His Church. We need therefore to make no apology for addressing you on this subject, endeavoring to

stir up your zeal and devotion to our Master's highest service.

For more than eighteen centuries the Lord Jesus Christ has been waiting for His Church to accomplish this mission on which He sent her. The Holy Scriptures reveal Him to us as sitting on the right hand of God "*expecting*" till His enemies be made His footstool." (Heb. x., 13.) What delays the fulfilment of his expectation? God the Father hath promised it, God the Son expects it, God the Holy Ghost was sent to bring it to pass. Why is it not accomplished? Why is it that after so many centuries there still remain more heathen in the world than there are Christians? Is it not because of the want of zeal and love of the Church? Christ has committed His work to His Church to accomplish for Him. It is the chief work of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, of which we are the working members, and which is animated by the Eternal Spirit of Life. The Church is able to fulfil this glorious mission if she will. She has the very power of God Himself. She has the assurance of victory, the certainty of success, if she will only give herself and go forth to the battle in the strength of the Lord. The triumphs of the first three centuries are living proofs of the power that Christ's Church can wield. To-day, with all the aids of wealth, education, and all the other forces of civilization, sanctified by the same Holy Spirit who came to dwell in her at Pentecost, what can she not accomplish for her Lord?

Thanks be to God that this 19th century has witnessed a great awakening of the Church to her