

Missionary Success. No 5

SIR.—The subject of noble work being done at home under the eyes of our people, and stimulating them to missionary zeal, belongs, perhaps, rather to a paper on ecclesiastical success, than to my present theme. But as sciences overlap each other, so in this case; and as we contemplate the progress of society at large, from a moral point of view, where the gospel of the Kingdom is proclaimed and the Kingdom is set up, we find one of our great incentives to missionary labour. For the same progress is going on around us now, *instead of retrogression*: the same forces are at work for and against, and we can watch, we can co-operate and learn how far it is a noble work; and all do operate on one side or the other. We can turn from the Master's words, "Ye are the salt," to see the salt at work. Take books like Ben Hur, Hypatia, Ivanhoe, The Last of the Barons, Charley O'Malley, for example; all of the popular light class of literature, yet all by men of scholarship as well as genius (for scholarship commend me to the late Lord Lytton); and, which makes their testimony so much the more convincing, written with no eye to this question of moral progress we can yet trace—each story differing from its predecessor as to the epoch treated by a few centuries—we yet trace this slow but certain progress. Or, as we take the China of this century, with its punishments of hacking men to pieces bit by bit, or its custom of flinging out the children to die of cold and heat and hunger—what is a dollar, what do our thousands count for beside the rescue of numberless infants from their slow torture, or the rescue of the deadened, devil-bound, icy hearts of parents who can so treat their offspring? And why, let us ask, have we not outdone them in brutality? We have in other things. Is it not the presence of the Church and Bible? But are we not apt to under-rate the work that is going on because we just expect what we are accustomed to? And, secondly, because those who are outside the Church also do work they never would have dreamed of but for her? Many of the clergy show brave work certainly, and work palpable to all; all of them have not equally the opportunity to let their light shine forth so palpably; but to attain to any full measure of ecclesiastical success we can be hardly rightly organized as yet. How, if we are (though we cannot adopt their measures altogether), could there have been room for a Salvation Army to attain its present growth so rapidly? Any good work that they are doing (their's, I take it, is an allowed mixed work) we should be doing. Our organization may be far better than twenty years ago, but the new organizations ever springing up within the Church, here as in England, point to a great need. Had the Church in Canada been in a thoughtful mind in 1881, when more complete organization was proposed, how different might have been her power and her position now! All that has been lost may possibly be regained with thought and perseverance, but thought would be needed; for though we know not in detail the designs of the Most High, there is no limit to our powers—they are those of our Elder Brother the Head—all power, absolutely all, barring such limits as we set up by want of faith or our stupidity; and faith and wisdom are among the gifts ever awaiting our reception.

J. C.

The Withering Fig Tree.

SIR.—Mr. Hammon's welcome letter of the 31st ult. reminds your correspondent of his expressed hope that Mr. Hammon might from time to time continue his Scripture enquiries. However, the effect produced on the Licentiate of Theology, in learning the unsatisfactory character of the answers given by Layman and L. S. T., was anything but reassuring.

The all-penetrating oversight of the Shepherd and Bishop (overseer) of our souls, was my point—as saith the Psalmist, "O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me, Thou knowest my down-sitting and uprising. Thou understandest my thought afar off," Ps. 139 passim. Having read, with much interest, W. W. B.'s contribution to this subject (CANADIAN CHURCHMAN, Feb. 7), and without further touching on the general view he adopts in interpreting the passage, I purpose continuing the more personal application which the "crux" of this remarkable incident contains. Thus, in Psalm first, is the beautiful figure of the *fruitful tree*—his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper—but chaff driven by the wind is *there*, the description of the wicked man: "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish." So, too, in the case of the withering fig tree—behold the picture of one concerning whom the Saviour said, "It had been good for that man if he had not been born," Matt. xxvi. 24. Again, "Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest do quickly," John xiii. 27-30—and again Acts i. 16-20. But what immediate effect had this

miracle on the disciples? Merely a marvel—Matt. xxi. 20. Nevertheless, the Great Teacher seizes the opportunity to add: "Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith and doubt not," etc.: "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive," Matt. xxi. 21-22. Nearly 2,000 years have passed:

"And the evening of life gives us mystical lore,
And coming events cast their shadows before."

"The time of figs was not yet;" "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever;" "And presently the fig tree withered away." May the good Lord, whose husbandry are we, keep us from the like awful doom! Judas was clothed with the foliage of a disciple of Jesus; the means of fruit-bearing for his Master he possessed, but he was a thief and traitor. So when the Divine Master, knowing the end from the beginning, beheld this fruitless fig tree, he saw in it the reverse picture of the righteous man bringing forth fruit in due season with leaf unwithering and prospering in all that he did. Oh! the sad warning here, as in the close of the sermon on the mount—the tree withers. Judas had been chosen one of the twelve, but Satan entered into him. "And when He saw a fig tree in the way He came to it and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it: Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever. And presently the fig tree withered away." Judas, the accredited disciple and office-bearer, was a thief and a traitor, and he went and hanged himself. Behold the fruitless fig tree! withered away! God forbid that a like doom overtake you or me! let us rather be instructed in time by the warning word: "He that, being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

L. S. T.

Cardiff and Monmouth Mission.

SIR.—As you have lately asked for particulars of work from parishes and missions generally, the time may be opportune to open up some of the particular phases of the work in this arduous and extensive mission, hoping to interest our Church people, and in fact, all who are working and praying for the glory and extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. One particular fact connected with this work is the utter impossibility of raising funds for local improvements and progress, owing to the hardship the people have to encounter. It often excites the wonder of a stranger when he sees men plowing and cultivating among stumps and stones which take up fully one-third of the ground, and he cannot fail to be impressed with a lesson of patience, perseverance and contentment, but it is the contentment of a bare living with the majority, and affords little or nothing to give to the Church, while some are actually in want of the comforts of warm clothing and suffer accordingly. In this connection we cannot but grieve for the inconsiderate statements made by some outsiders, who have thoughtlessly, and perhaps unintentionally, damaged our cause at some of the W. A. meetings in Toronto, which is to the effect that the assistance sent to the people of this mission was lost on them, and that they were quite well enough off to provide for themselves. This certainly may be the case with some, but not with the majority. We will but state facts which shall be their own interpreter. In different parts of this mission there are eleven old and infirm persons who are quite helpless and dependent, and whom we are more or less bound to assist, *especially with clothing*; there are also many families whose children are so lightly clad that going any distance to church or school would be out of the question, or have suffered in consequence from chest and throat complaints. It is grievous to think that we have had very little this winter wherewith to supply the wants of these sufferers, who have learned to depend on us for assistance in this way, and it is still sadder to think of them in this severe weather with the glass 20° below zero for a week and to-day 24° below. Another phase of our work is the difficulty of getting from one settlement to another, owing to the great depth of snow and the drifts. To give an instance—An entertainment came off at one of our stations last night in aid of the Urso Church; there was no alternative but to go. For four miles there was but one sleigh track since the last storm—the snow to the horse's girths—the weather at 28° below zero at midnight, the time of our coming home. At this station (Urso) we have a beautiful little church in course of erection. It has struggled through many difficulties, and now by the timely aid of \$50 from the S.P.C.K., and another \$50 from the Burnside Trust Fund, we have it about fit for divine service, which would not have been possible but for this benevolent aid. Still, the inside furnishing and painting has to be done, which should be at once to save expense. We make an earnest appeal for funds to defray this expense. We have also been requested to take steps towards the building of a church at Wilberforce, a new station on the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa Railway. If this is not commenced on the opening of spring, it may be

lost to the Church. It is possible to raise about \$100 on a local subscription. There we earnestly ask for outside help in this work also. We would also take this opportunity of thanking those branches of the W.A. who have this year so kindly helped us, in sending material aid to some of our poor people. If they could only see how much the warm clothing was appreciated by them, they would not attach much importance to the statements of inexperienced outsiders, who have only made casual visits to this part of the country and never taken into account the extent of the mission, containing seven stations—the extreme distance being 38 miles—and the number of people to be supplied.

We have three Sunday-schools, all working well, and will open another at Wilberforce in the spring, as soon as a fit place is found in which to hold it. We earnestly trust that this good work will commend itself to the consideration and interest of our Christian brethren throughout the country, and thus materially help on the Master's work.

H. T. BOURNE, Missionary; F. W. SHEPHERD, Ass't Missionary.

Essonville, 7th January, 1895.

BRIEF MENTION.

Mr. R. T. Walkem, Q.C., has been elected chairman of the Kingston Board of Health.

The taxes of the people of this country equal about \$10 to each inhabitant.

Diamonds are the gems emblematic of April.

London has 10,000 professional musicians.

In Stuttgart there is a rosebush that covers a space of 230 square feet.

K.D.C. Pills tone and regulate the Bowels.

Lamps were used before written history. Thousands of ancient lamps have been found.

Spermaceti candles were an invention of the last century.

Great Britain raises \$95,000,000 from the liquor taxes and \$40,000,000 from the tax on tobacco.

The congregation of Christ Church, Winnipeg, is making an effort in the direction of securing a continuance of the services of the Rev. Canon Pentreath.

The Rev. A. J. Fidler requests that all communications to him be addressed to 30 Maple Grove, Parkdale, Toronto.

The temperature of the earth advances one degree for every 51 feet of descent. It is supposed that at a distance of 30 miles below the surface metals and rocks are at white heat.

The Rev. Henry Hackenley, rector of St. Mary's Church, Richibucto, has handed in his resignation to take effect in April.

It is estimated that 1,200 tons of ostrich feathers have been exported from Cape Colony during the past 30 years, valued at \$50,000,000.

On the great St. Bernard the monks are building a new and larger hospice, as travel over the Aosta Martigny pass is increasing, even in winter.

A lower floor of the crypt of old St. Paul's was recently discovered by a bin of wine falling through a cellar just above.

K.D.C. Pills tone and regulate the liver.

Rev. John Fairbairn, for some time rector of Franktown, who went to England last summer, has returned to this diocese and is now appointed to the mission of Petawawa.

The list of English periodicals and newspapers in January, 1895, foots up to 4,161 publications. London publishes 1,215 newspapers, reviews and magazines.

The Nawab of Rampur, an Indian potentate, has paid \$250,000 to an English army surgeon who attended him for three months.

A home of rest for horses has been started in England. Its object is to take care of horses suffering from lameness, sores or overwork until they are fit to work again, the owners being supplied with a sound horse in the interval.

\$200 ill spent for other cures, \$5 well spent for K.D.C.

According to the London city directory there are no less than 50 High streets in that city. Every important district appears to have one of its own.

The Rev. has been elected secretary of

Nearly memorial to Blakeney.

The Rev. has been a

Roman decreased

The Rev. Methodist Dunedin,

The York Cathedral and after \$4,000 for

The Poor a donation Messrs. J. Orphan C. from "A. schools.

It was Lichfield held record made during the stipe £4,587.

A new Deinoil, L. L. S. of the W. building of the Re past year towards t

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