

held well-attended prayer-meetings; every week in Mt. Lehman, every fortnight in Aldergrove. There has also been singing practice every week in these two places. Last summer W. D. T. Moss of Montreal College occupied this field with great acceptance. Since then a Methodist brother has given a fortnightly service. There was also an *occasional* service by the Presbyterian minister of Fort Langley and Warnock. Now, besides the Methodist services there is "meeting" every Sabbath in Mt. Lehman and once a fortnight at the other two stations and an outlying settlement.

Families have been found who had not seen a minister since they settled, over a year ago. In one of these homes there is now fortnightly service. There are many drawbacks to the work. The roads are almost impassable in winter and the settlers are far apart. Canadians, Americans, Scotch, English, Irish, Dutch, Swedes. Half-breeds and Indians present a heterogeneity of race and belief. However as a rule they are far less bigoted than in older countries, and nearly all Protestants combine to support Methodist and Presbyterian ministers, who receive a warm welcome in the homes.

A. WAT. LEWIS.

What about the Chinese in B. Columbia?

THE following, from a good member of the church in Nova Scotia, is doubtless intended to meet the eye of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Western section, who we believe are anxiously considering not what they *should* do so much as what they are able to do in the direction indicated:—"It is a glad thing to observe the anxiety of the Church to extend the Kingdom of Christ among the heathen in foreign lands, but, oh! where is the consistency of *laboring* to carry the banner of the cross into the dark recesses of heathendom—to the neglect of the crying need of heathen at home. I do not refer just now to the destitute places in our own church and home field, nor do I refer to those among ourselves who may refuse and are refusing to hearken to the word of life, but I refer to the poor Chinese in our own Dominion who are allowed to grope in worse than heathen darkness. In the city of Victoria alone there are, I believe, some four or five thousand of these poor people who, I assure you, have not improved by their association with their more civilized (?) and en-

lightened neighbors. There is the most urgent need that a missionary should be sent to poor "Chinatown" in the city of Victoria. Here we find the opium dens frequented not by their own people merely but by young men and *women* of the city still in their teens, many of whom almost before attaining manhood and womanhood, sink into dishonored graves. No doubt a missionary would have more difficult work here (where vice and immorality abound, brought about largely by their contact with the more refined (?) "white" man) than in the heart of China itself; but are we to stand aloof from these people, practising their heathen rites at our doors and spending their lives in much worse than heathen darkness? I bring this matter before the attention of the Church with the prayer that the Great Head will raise up some one heroic enough to take up this work—not insurmountable—through the help of the Holy Spirit.

CHURCHMAN.

Our Home Missions.

THE Assembly's Committee of the Western section met in Toronto, March 24th, 25th, a large number of members being in attendance. Dr. Cochrane, *convener*, Dr. Warden, secretary. Sympathy was expressed for Dr. Laing and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, both of whom were absent on account of illness. The claims of Presbyteries for services rendered in Mission fields and augmented congregations during the past six months were considered and payments ordered to be made for the former, \$20,993.26, and for the latter, \$12,589.57. The receipts of the Board up to 24th March were, for Home Missions, \$41,611.12, and for augmentation, \$19,636.79. There will probably be a deficiency of some \$4,000 or \$5,000 to meet the expenses of the year. Application from Presbyteries for the ensuing year having been considered, the Committee resolved to notify Presbyteries and Missionaries that while the grants made are the amounts which, in the judgment of the Committee, are necessary for the efficient working of the fields, this Committee can only disburse the money placed at its disposal by the Church, and earnestly appeals to Presbyteries to adopt means to secure largely increased contributions on behalf of the fund from the congregations within their bounds.

The Committee appointed to visit Prince Albert, to enquire into the affairs of the academy, and the work of the church generally in that district, reported their diligence. The completion of the railway to Prince Albert has greatly increased the importance of the town and district, and efforts are being put forth by the people to induce immigration.

Arrangements are in progress for the erection of a new church. Mr. W. M. Rochester,