

associated with Him. It is to our reproach that His work does not advance, that it is hindered and kept back through our indifference and want of zeal. For example, we might, if we would but do our part, readily supply the Church's ministrations without stint in Algoma and the Northwest. Surely our courage will never falter, our hopes will be ever strong and high, if we keep in mind that the work is God's work, that He has not withdrawn from it and left it all to us. Directly and indirectly, He is ever working with us. We are not working apart from Him or without Him. He is working, and we are His fellow-workers. This one fact must banish fear and brighten our most sanguine hopes.

We do not know, we cannot tell, why the Most High and Mighty Ruler of the universe does not weary of our indifference, and our sluggishness. Why does He not take His work, which is so precious to Him, out of *our* hands and entrust it to some other of His countless hosts of ministers? That He still trusts us, that He still continues us in our position of fellow-workers with Himself, is manifest. The growing missionary zeal of both our clergy and laity are encouraging proofs to you of this. In this spirit we appeal to you to-day.

Not a few amongst us seem to weary of Algoma. It appears so long since this first missionary child of the Canadian Church was born that some are thinking it should be of age, that it should be now walking alone. We have, indeed, a right to enquire whether the people in Algoma are doing all they can and ought to do for themselves; but our knowledge of the long years during which some of the congregations in our older dioceses have found it necessary to accept aid from the English societies forbids any surprise that Algoma is not yet able to do without our aid. The bishops who have visited some of the congregations in Algoma during the enforced absence of the diocesan can testify to the spirit that prevails—a spirit which will render them impatient of accepting the bounty of others one year longer than is unavoidable. It must be very painful for them to have the impression that we in the east are wearying of them. We would have them believe that our sole desire is that they should learn, as soon as their circumstances permit, to rely wholly on themselves. But we know that long years must pass ere this position can be reached. In the meantime, let us not be weary in our well-doing. Let our gifts be freely bestowed out of loving hearts full of sympathy for them, their clergy, and their bishop.

Time forbids our dwelling on the circumstances and needs of each of the dioceses in the Northwest. The help we divide among them is so small that we cannot avoid a sense of shame and reproach as we look over the an-

nual report of our Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Little wonder if the bishops in the Northwest manifest serious anxiety about this, in view of the gradual withdrawal by the English societies of *their* aid.

No doubt the standard of giving among us, brethren, is very low, and the number who systematically set apart for God's work in the world a certain fixed proportion of their income is small. Still the number is steadily increasing, and the money which passes through our society to aid the domestic and foreign fields is multiplying year by year. We must not expect to advance by leaps and bounds. Growth slow and gradual is God's own law. Yet we must be busy and persistent in increasing all our families, and every individual, from the time he begins to earn anything, to adopt a high standard of giving to God and His Church, and to live up to that standard on principle, according to a settled plan. Begin to-day by doubling the amount you have hitherto given to domestic missions in answer to the appeal at Ascensiontide.

Last year the Church of England in Canada raised for domestic missions, *i.e.*, for Algoma and the Northwest, \$26,516.74. Most of us will be ready to acknowledge at once that this amount ought to be largely increased. All the congregations in the ten dioceses which now constitute this ecclesiastical province are both willing and able to give in the aggregate a much larger sum.

We appeal to them, one by one, through their clergyman, who, by virtue of his office, is the agent of our missionary society, to give up to their power to aid the Church in her domestic field. The need for all that our congregations can reasonably contribute is pressing. The English societies are withdrawing year by year their aid. The work must be reduced, the number of clergy must be diminished, unless we supply in some measure the decrease in the grants from England. Other Christian bodies in Canada are providing for their own people in the Northwest. No large sums are sent by societies from Scotland and England for the maintenance and extension of their religious services. The money is supplied in generous amounts from Eastern Canada.

What others are doing we can do—aye, and we are willing to do. The English societies are withdrawing their aid, not suddenly, but in small amounts year after year, in the confident expectation that the congregations in the Northwest will, with our assistance, be able to meet the reduction. They claim that they are fully justified in withdrawing from Canada because it is growing in wealth, and the Church of England in Canada ought to support her own missions. They point to the fact that elsewhere in the world eight hun-