

education ; so is France ; so is Germany. Even Russia is in advance of us in some things, and so is the United States. Another principle with him has been continuously to cultivate an absolute faith in himself. Years ago Fowler, the phren-

ologist, told him that his life was certain to be a failure because he was lacking in self-esteem. It has been his endeavor to conquer that defect, and to work out his own ends courageously.

MISSION WORK IN CANADA

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IN speaking of the Home Mission work of our Canadian Church, it would seem to be still necessary to define the field of our operations, and the character of the work accomplished. The necessity of such definition was impressed upon me but recently while attending a great convention at one of the religious centres of this continent. Upon a wall of the partition there hung from day to day a map, indicating by a variety of colors the need of the world for the Gospel ; imagine my astonishment to find it declaring in unblushing whiteness that the whole of Canada, with the exception of a narrow strip of territory bordering on the great lakes and the St. Lawrence, was—uninhabited territory ! I could have forgiven the ignorance of the designer had he colored our rich and populous provinces in an inky blackness, and called us “heathen,” or even declared us “unexplored,” but “uninhabited territory” created an amazement that lingered long on the borderland between imagination and amusement. Sparse our population may be, sir, in many parts, and for years must continue so ; but in this good land which the Canadian Church is called upon to go up and possess for Christ, stretching as it does from sunny, sea-girt Prince Edward Island and from Newfound-

land's misty coasts across four thousand miles to where Pacific's waves leave Vancouver's shores, and Klon-dyke's ridges hold in frosty grip the precious ore, peopled already with nigh six million souls, there is, from one extreme to the other, scarce a considerable stretch of territory in which from far-off fishing station or from quiet agricultural settlement, from thriving hamlet or from busy mining camp there does not come a call—a call to which no Church can afford to turn an unheeding ear, a call for the Word of Life and for the Means of Grace. The work in this new land is far different in detail and method from that with which many in this Alliance are familiar, under the name of Home Missions. Here the work is not the recovery of the masses, the rescuing of the lapsed, or the establishment of missions in the centres of congested populations ; it is, if I may so call it, the more inspiring and vastly more hopeful work of laying the foundations of future life that shall exclude such conditions ; it is the pre-empting, in the name of our Lord, lands but newly opened, the occupying by pioneer work of soil just now ready for tillage.

The importance of this work, I desire in the moments at my disposal, to emphasize in the light of three considerations.

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