

It would perhaps not be advisable, and certainly not possible, within the scope of this letter, to enter into any argument for or against the voting of regular grants to churches. Suffice it to say, that the present Board is by no means opposed to it, if sufficient funds be provided.

The successes that have been achieved during the past year by individual church effort, prove how much might be accomplished by systematic, continued work, such as might be done if the Board had the financial support of the churches. It seems as if the churches were willing to let Home Mission work drift, or to interest themselves in it in a half-hearted and lackadaisical manner.

If this work is demanded, and is worth doing, it is worth doing well. It were better that it be not attempted than that it should be carried on in the lazy manner that has prevailed. Let our Churches put some business energy and vigor into the raising of funds for this purpose, and some fervor and earnestness into their prayers for the success of the evangelist, and we may confidently look for abundant success and the blessing of God.

In taking the action as outlined above, the Board feel that a step has been taken in the right direction. If it meet with the approval of the churches, well and good; on the other hand, if it be productive of a vigorous "kick" on the part of some, this will be hailed with satisfaction by the Board as a sign of life.

SOWING AND REAPING.

H. A. DEVOE, Minister of Christian Church,
South Range, N. S.

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand."—Ecc. xi : 6.

The writer's first impressions in travelling over many sections of Digby County were that many of its inhabitants were making great mistakes in spending their time over cordwood and other cheap products of the forest, while at the same time neglecting to improve and cultivate many fine tracts of agricultural lands that, when improved and cultivated, would surely give a much better and richer return for the labor and time expended. In asking for an explanation as to why the people made so great a mistake the answer was given: "Our people do not like to clear up rough lands into farms because the profits are not in sight, and they have not the courage to work hard and wait a year or two for returns."

This illustrates to my mind one trouble with our people in their apparent reluctance to give their money for home missions. If they could give one dollar or a hundred, and next week or month see the result in a grand meeting at or near home, all would look different. Leaving to others the subject of home missions from points of theory, I wish to write a few facts from retrospection, the truth of which should encourage us all to give all we can to the cause of home missions and leave the results with God.

In the year of 1881, Bro. Henry Hill, now of Nauwigewauk, N. B., spent a trifle in home mission enterprise by engaging Bro. T. H. Capp (who was at that time pastor of the Coburg Street Christian Church, St.

John, N. B.) to go into an isolated country section of Kings County, N. B., and preach two sermons in a small schoolhouse to less than twenty hearers. Little did Bro. Capp or Bro. Hill think at that time that the seed sown in such an unpromising place to such an unpromising congregation would in less than twenty years bring forth fruits in two churches organized, probably four hundred converts baptized, two preachers of the Word still doing what they can through the gospel as the power of God unto salvation by which we trust many others will yet become obedient unto the faith, besides some gone home to the better land rejoicing in the saving power of Jesus as the Christ the Son of the living God.

Looking at present results, who can estimate what will grow out of this during the next twenty years for earth, and when it comes to a thought of estimating the final results for eternity we are lost as on a mighty ocean with no power of vision to discern its bounds.

Brethren, there are many points in all our broad Dominion where work of this kind can and should be done. The life-long faithfulness of Bro. Fullerton and the fruits gathered as a church to-day at Pictou should encourage us to more and greater efforts in our home mission work than we have shown in the past.

I saw by the last CHRISTIAN that we have 45,000 members in Ontario, and yet Ontario is so great a field that in talking with one of its best and wisest known business men, Pres. Burrows, of Brockville, last summer, he said I was the first one of the peculiar people known as Disciples of Christ that he had met in the Dominion, although he numbered his friends by the score in the United States who belonged to our people. Our best efforts in home mission work would soon cause us as a people to be more widely known, not only in Ontario but over all the rest of our fair land.

Brethren, let us take fresh courage. Of course all the work done and results gained as fruits of Bro. Capp's two sermons cannot be found in our home mission field strictly speaking, unless we count the American field as ours and ours as theirs, which I think pure and righteous altogether and well pleasing to Christ who is head over all things to the Church.

Let us attempt greater things in home missions and God will do still greater things for us on earth, and at heaven's portal say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

FIGURES AND FACTS.

A. N. SIMPSON, Minister Christian Church,
New Glasgow, P. E. I.

Agitation and education are two fundamental principles in the progress of any movement. Agitation is education, and education is progression. The subject of home missions is one that is not properly understood by our brethren, because it has never been sufficiently agitated. I am glad in that a greater interest is being taken just now in advocating a greater enthusiasm in home missions all along the line. I am glad that we are becoming better acquainted with our forces and resources in Canada. We want to agitate this question of home missions, and educate the people to the great need of supporting the gospel in our home

land. "Jerusalem first, then Judea, then Samaria, then the uttermost parts of the earth."

Now I want to give some facts and figures. I will take them from the American Home Missionary Report of 1899. The Secretary, Benj. L. Smith, in his introductory remarks, says: Canada is a magnificent empire, with 488,766 more square miles than the United States, with natural resources of almost limitless extent; with a population that is intelligent, hardy and progressive; with a future that shall rival and reflect that of the United States. Canada appeals to us with power as one of the most promising fields in the world for our plea." We thank our secretary heartily for this high tribute of praise to our fair dominion.

In the face of this I know it must have been with some degree of humiliation that he had to file Canada's financial report for home missions.

The following is the report of the money contributed to the A. H. M. B. from Canada:

British Columbia	\$15 00
New Brunswick	38 79
Ontario	85 25
P. E. Island	26 00
Manitoba	15 00
Nova Scotia.....	86 77
Quebec	1 00

Total.....\$267 81

The amount given in every instance is less than three cents per member. This is too small. Now I don't think I put the mark too high when I say that every member of every province ought to give to the support of the gospel in the home land twenty-five cents. That would be just a little over two cents per month, not a very big sum, and I believe the poorest and the youngest member in our brotherhood could in the course of a month secure two cents for the spread of the gospel in the home land. On P. E. Island we have about 300 members. Two cents a month, twenty-five cents a year, would be \$200.00 for our missionary in Charlottetown. Ontario has 45,000 members; two cents a month, twenty-five cents a year, would be \$11,250.00. Estimate the other provinces in a similar way, and add the amounts together, and the question of asking the American Board to come over and help us would be a thing of the past. We heartily appreciate and thank the American Board for what it has done for Canada, and, in the face of the facts before us, we admire their patience and long-suffering in dealing out unto us much more than we deserve. If the churches of the dominion and the brotherhood as a whole would arouse themselves to a sense of their duty, we could relieve the A. H. M. B. of this burden it is now bearing because of Canada, and we would feel stronger for bearing our own burdens. Brethren, let us agitate this question of home missions. Let us thunder it from our pulpits. Let us talk it on the street, and at the fireside. Let us write about it to our friends and our relatives. Let it be our constant study. Let it ascend to heaven in our prayers as a savour of life unto life. Let us pour into the hearts of the people such a deluge of agitation along home mission lines that the only salvation or means of escape for them shall be an unloosing of the purse strings, and a placing on the altar of Christian living, consecrated hearts and consecrated dollars, the living testimonies of a nation's progress. Let us agitate to educate, and educate to progress.