

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

THE FAMINE IN TURKEY IN ASIA—AN APPEAL FOR AID.

[We very willingly reprint the following letter addressed by Principal Grant to the Editor of the "Globe," while we repeat what we said last week, that it will give us great pleasure to receive and forward to Mr Ward any contributions for the object referred to.—ED. C. P.]

To the Editor of the "Globe."

SIR,—The following appeal is sent by Canadian and American missionaries, and H. M. Vice-Consul in Erzurum, Turkey in Asia, for publication in the "Globe," and in any other Canadian newspapers that are sufficiently interested in suffering humanity to insert an appeal for aid. This is the black year in those ancient Bible lands, from various causes to which I need not refer. The appeal to us for gifts, made by those who are giving themselves, will surely not fall unheeded on our ears:

"TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC.

"Famine is raging in this land. Already several certified cases of death by starvation have come under our notice. Many people are trying to subsist upon the nutritionless roots of the *kar*, a shrub which is used for firewood; while carcasses of horses which have sickened and died are eagerly devoured. The benevolence of Britain has already been severely taxed on behalf of Ireland and the refugees in western Turkey; and, while we are receiving help from that quarter, we feel it to be unfair to ask that one much-enduring nation to bear the whole burden of this poverty-stricken district. We, therefore, appeal to the Canadian public for much needed aid. Give, and God will bless you; for 'He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord.' Please forward contributions, without delay to L. S. Ward, Esq., Treasurer, A. B. C. F. M., Congl. House, No. 1 Somerset street, Boston, Mass., stating designation.

"R. CHAMBERS,

"M. P. PARMLEE,

"R. M. COLE,

"WM. N. CHAMBERS,

"American Missionaries.

"WILLIAM EVERETT,

"Captain 33rd Regiment, H.B.M.'s,

"Vice-Consul, Erzurum.

"Erzurum, Feb. 20th, 1880."

Private letters from Rev. R. Chambers, late of Whitby, Ont., and now one of the missionaries signing the appeal, give details of the need. He says: "The destitution in this and the surrounding districts is increasing. Last week we entertained a deputation of thirteen men from a village in the Alashgird district. In their village of fifty families they report thirteen deaths from starvation. The people are trying to keep body and soul together by using roots and greens, gathered and dried last fall in larger quantities than usual in anticipation of the present distress. There is neither wheat nor bread to be found in the district. They gave the names of fourteen villages in a similar plight. Less than one-seventh of a crop was sowed last fall, and there is nothing for the spring sowing. The funds in hand being scanty, the only thing practicable was to give each man £1 (\$4.40), with the assurance that when money came their district would be visited and helped. The sympathy of the Government is seen in the fact that these men had to flee their village to escape imprisonment for arrears of taxes. When about to leave the city they were actually arrested on the plea that they had no passports permitting them to pass out of their own district. The true cause, no doubt, was that the officers of the law, supposing that these men had received money, wanted their share of it in the shape of a bribe. H. B. M.'s Vice-Consul heard of this act, and in his righteous indignation secured the poor men's prompt release. Two of the missionary force returned yesterday from the Passen plain, where they were engaged in the work of distributing to the hungry people. All the funds at command up to last week served only to provide four days' food for the destitute in the villages. Every house was carefully searched, and where there was provision for four days nothing was given. In one village where the party remained over night they failed to obtain an eatable morsel either for themselves or their horses. They had taken the precaution to provide themselves with bread for their journey, but that night their horses had to go hungry. In another village, a Turkish one, a horse had died and been eagerly devoured the day before by the villagers. In this village one man had enough for fifteen days, but no morsel was to be found elsewhere. This fortunate man last fall sold his household furniture, and with great difficulty obtained

four *somas* (a *soma* is about ten or twelve bushels) of wheat, two of which he put in the ground, and in fifteen days the other two will be consumed. He is the only man of his village who has a crop in prospect. In another village three cases of death from starvation were found. The people were trying to allay the pangs of hunger by chewing the roots of the *kar*. The missionaries started out with the intention of relieving the Armenian population, but found the Turkish villages in such a plight that they were constrained to give them the larger share.

"In Erzurum matters are not much better. A widow came to us the other day, whose eight children had had nothing fit to nourish them for three days. Others come crowding upon us daily, attempting to kiss the hands and feet of the missionaries, and begging for a morsel. Of course there are deceivers. A woman came the other day with a piteous tale, but on examination, which is never omitted, and is always strict, a quantity of flour was found in her house. She confessed the deception, but still pleaded great poverty, which certainly did exist. Still, as yet, we have given only to those who have absolutely nothing. The first contribution of \$5 has reached us from America. We hail it as the harbinger of good things to come. The first contribution which cheered the hearts of the missionaries in their relief work here two years ago was that of \$1, all the way from the United States. Help! help! for our hearts faint and fail.

"R. C."

I have abbreviated Mr. Chambers' letters out of regard for your space, and from feeling that it is unnecessary to accumulate horrors. Something we must do to help men who are helping those that are ready to perish. And he gives twice who gives quickly.

It may be asked, What claims on us have those Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and native Christians who dwell round the wide-spreading bases of Mount Ararat, and in those highlands whence the Father of the Faithful migrated thousands of years ago for the world's advantage? The question answers itself. Those peoples and lands are linked to us by a thousand human, historical, and spiritual links. Towards them a mighty unseen power seems drawing all the great world forces as if for some final mortal struggle. The only gleams of hope for the future of those lands that we can discern in the confusion and present despair are in the mission churches, schools, and colleges established by those noble Christian men sent out by the American Churches, who have proved themselves statesmen as well as missionaries. I rejoice that Canadians are working side by side with those men, and in co-operation with British influence and effort. Do not we owe something to the men who have given themselves to this work? Now is the time to help them with effect, to enable them to be saviours to the helpless, and so to strengthen their influence for the future.

To whom should the help be sent? The appeal gives the answer. Mr. Ward will forward money, or oats, or buckwheat, for seed. Or if any individuals, societies, or congregations will send to the Editor of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, 5 Jordan street, Toronto, or to my own address, their contributions will be promptly remitted to Mr. Ward, and duly acknowledged.

GEORGE M. GRANT.

Queen's University, Kingston, April 5th, 1880.

PRESBYTERIAN HYMN-BOOK.

MR. EDITOR,—As many of your readers desire to know what the Presbyterian Hymn-book Committee have been doing, I take the liberty of giving the following information.

The Committee met in Montreal last December, and completed their selection of hymns, availing themselves of the reports of Presbyteries. The number of hymns selected, not including doxologies, is 349. All these, with the exception of about forty, are found in the hymn-books at present in use in our congregations, viz.: in the "Scottish Hymnal," in the English Presbyterian, and in the two United Presbyterian hymn-books. From the "Scottish Hymnal," which contains 200 hymns, 164 have been selected; from the English Presbyterian, which contains 470 hymns, besides Paraphrases, 212 have been selected; from the new United Presbyterian Hymn-book, which contains 366 hymns, 223 have been selected; from the old United Presbyterian Hymn-book 132 have been selected. Of the remaining forty hymns not found in these collections, almost all have

been approved, either by all, or by a majority of Presbyteries.

The hymns have been classified under seven heads, viz.: I. God; II. Jesus Christ; III. The Holy Spirit; IV. Christian Life; V. The Church; VI. Death, Resurrection and Heaven; VII. Miscellaneous. An alphabetical index has been prepared, containing the names of authors, as well as the first lines of hymns. A suitable text, together with the proper metre, has been placed at the head of each hymn; and a Committee appointed for the purpose is engaged in selecting appropriate tunes.

Applications for leave to publish, made to the authors or proprietors of copyright hymns, have been courteously and cordially granted.

With a view of securing the copyright of the new hymn-book, as well as of being presented to the Assembly, the hymns are being printed in book form, similar in size and type to the 16mo. edition of the new United Presbyterian Hymn-book. It is expected that an edition of 1,500 copies will be ready in a few weeks, and that the sale of these will meet the expense of publication.

It may be added that besides twenty hymns selected for children's services the Hymn-book contains a large number suitable for Sabbath-schools—seventy-four of them being found in Gall's and Bateman's collections. A cheap edition of the Psalms, Paraphrases, and new Hymns, together with suitable music, might be published for Sabbath-schools, in which the children might become familiar with the psalmody to be used in congregations and prayer meetings. W. G.

Toronto, April, 1880.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND OUR HOME MISSION FIELD.

MR. EDITOR,—Assuming that your readers will be interested in learning the attitude that the Church of Scotland has decided on assuming towards the Presbyterian Church in Canada, especially with regard to her great and growing Home Mission work, I give the following information, obtained from the annual appeal of the Home Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland for a collection for its funds, as published in the "Missionary Record" for March.

It will be recollected that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland sent out a delegate last year, the Rev. G. W. Spratt, who attended our Assembly and visited all the provinces of the Dominion, except British Columbia. Acting on his report, and on an extended inquiry through correspondents, the Committee find ample justification for the resolutions of the last General Assembly, which decided: 1st, To wind up their operations in the older settlements in the Maritime Provinces and in Quebec and Ontario, and in future to confine grants in aid of Colonial Mission work in Canada to the temporary assistance required in new settlements and provinces. 2nd, To reduce the grants to Queen's College, Kingston, £100 annually till the vote be extinguished. And 3rd, To withdraw in two years the contribution to the Hall in Halifax.

With this policy our united Church ought to be fully content. Union has given her strength and power to overtake her work in the older settled portions of the Dominion, but the effort to grapple with the wide new fields opening up in Muskoka, the Lake Superior region, and the vast North-West, will tax all the energies of the Church to the uttermost, and will require the evoking to the fullest extent of the liberality of our people, and it is just in this direction that the parent Churches in Great Britain can come to our aid. The Church of Scotland has indicated her plan of operations and I trust it will be followed by the other Presbyterian Churches in Britain. The Committee announce that "Among the new Canadian Provinces which loudly call for temporary assistance are British Columbia and Manitoba;" in the former Province the Presbytery is still in alliance with the Church of Scotland, and the Committee granted last year for the salaries of five missionaries there, £1,000 sterling.

The Committee are charged with a wide and varied work. In addition to looking after the purely colonial field in Australia and New Zealand, they aid in the support of ministers in India, Ceylon, the Mauritius, Jamaica, St. Vincent, and Cyprus; they also supplement Government arrangements for the pastoral superintendence of Presbyterian soldiers in the army and navy, and are charged with the supply and