

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1879.

Has your congregation forwarded its contribution for the current ecclesiastical year to every one of the Church schemes? If not it should be at once attended to as the year ends in a few weeks.

## HOME MISSION APPEAL.

WE would direct the attention of all our readers to the letter of Dr. Cochran on another page. If our Home Mission work is to be maintained efficiently, and claims now coming due are to be honourably met, immediate action is necessary.

## FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

BY appointment of the General Assembly, Sabbath week, the 16th inst., is the day for the annual collection on behalf of Foreign Missions in those congregations of the Church in which there are no missionary associations. Of the five Foreign fields worked by the Church three are under the care of the western committee, viz., India, Formosa and the mission to the Indians in the North-West. The letters of the missionaries appearing in our columns and in those of the Church "Record" from time to time give evidence of the work being carried on in those fields and of the success with which God is crowning that work. As indication of the deep interest felt by our people in this department of the Church's effort the contributions for Foreign Missions last year in the Western Section exceeded those of the year preceding by upwards of \$6,000, and we are very glad to learn that for the current year fully \$1,500 more were received by the Treasurer up to 1st February than for the corresponding period of last year.

This is indeed most encouraging especially when we consider the unexampled commercial depression prevailing throughout the whole country, and is to be regarded, we believe, as an evidence of increased spiritual life in the Church. The expenditure of the committee (Western section) last year was \$22,650, of which \$6,000 were for outfit and

travelling expenses of missionaries and their families from Canada to their distant fields of labour. No additional missionaries having been appointed since last Assembly this latter item will be saved this year. While this is the case it must not be forgotten that about \$10,000 will be required for the erection of mission premises in India so that the committee should have a revenue considerably in excess of last year. We have not seen any partial estimate of the expenditure for the current year, but are inclined to believe that it will not be much short of 27,000, including the mission buildings at Indore and the debt of \$1,000 when last year's accounts were closed. It is exceedingly undesirable to end the year in debt, even though that debt should have arisen because of an exceptionally large expenditure consequent on the erection of buildings. We hope therefore that a vigorous effort will be made throughout the Church to raise the amount necessary for the current year. In looking over the receipts of 1877-78, we find that about one-third of the congregations and stations sent no contribution to the Foreign Mission Fund. Were all to contribute this year there should be no difficulty in raising the full amount required by the committee. We trust that in those congregations where there are no missionary societies the collection will be made on the Sabbath named by the Assembly, and that ministers will urge liberal giving on the part of their people.

## THE ANTI-CHINESE BILL.

IT is very gratifying to be able to report that President Hayes has vetoed this most obnoxious Bill. After this, there is much to be said in favour of the power of the veto being vested in the President's hand. It is of course similar to the right of the Queen to reject any law that may pass the Houses of Parliament. In general, Congress could pass a measure over the veto if there were sufficient time. But in this case, fortunately, there is not the legal number of days before the rising of that body.

Of course a great many will be annoyed at the fact that this bill has thus been put aside. Judging from the telegrams which came to the President from many quarters requesting him not to veto the measure, there will be bitter disappointment felt by a large number, especially in California, where there is much excitement raised by the vast influx of the Chinese hordes and not a little indignation at the low wages for which cheap John is willing to work, there will be considerable feeling caused by the President's action. Indeed it was said that steps had to be taken by the Government to meet any disturbance that might take place by way of denouncing the veto of the Executive. Mr. Hayes of course, does not need to care for public opinion in the matter, as he is not a candidate for further presidential honours. He is moreover a man of independent thought and spirit, and is more likely to look at the matter in the light of duty than of expediency, and he is deserving of congratulation at having been manly enough to follow the dictates of con-

science rather than the demands of a clamant throng. His action will be commended in the future. Before another year, we venture to say that the veto will be accepted as the proper course. Had this measure passed, we are sure it would have been subjected to an ignominious reversal by the present generation.

The anti Chinese bill embodies a principle that would for ever put an end to the idea of equality and liberty in the great Republic. There is no reason why the Children of the Moon should be driven back from our shores. Let them come and have fair play. Let them taste the joys of civil liberty, let them learn the ways of our people, and we doubt not but a place will be found for them, in which they will exercise an important influence in the future of this continent. If they can do work superior to and cheaper than others, let these others learn to beat them. Give them a good chance. But do not prevent an industrious economical people from coming into the nation and contributing of their strength and skill to its weal.

Above all, in the missionary aspect, what an opening there may soon be provided for sending the Gospel to China! What if in time and in answer to prayer, many of those immigrants should become Christians and go forth to their own nation and country with the rich blessings of the Word of God, would not the prophecy be gloriously fulfilled of "a little one becoming a thousand and a small one becoming a mighty nation!"

## OUR PRISONS AND COMMON GAOLS.

OUR prisons and county gaols have been very much improved within the last few years. There are some people—obstructionists we are forced to call them—who think that this work of improvement would better have been left undone. They say that, in so far as these institutions are concerned, "the worse the better," and their reasons for coming to this conclusion are that bad gaol accommodation has a tendency to keep people from committing crime, and that any improvement in this respect is only offering a premium on wrong-doing. We beg to differ with these over-wise people. We admit that a hardened criminal has sometimes been known to break a pane of glass or commit some other minor offence with the avowed object of being "sent down" for a short time to avoid starvation; but we deny that the hope of getting into gaol ever tempted anybody to a criminal course; and we also deny that the improvements made have any tendency in that direction. As a matter of fact it is well known that the commission of crime for the sake of getting into gaol was more common in by gone days than it is now; and to those who understand the nature and objects of the improvements made, the reason is obvious. Under the new arrangements there is more seclusion than there was under the old; cleanliness and correct habits of living are enforced; and hard labour is duly recognized as the normal state of existence for fallen man. To a low, gross, sensual nature, such as most criminals have, these changes are any-