

what of religious life is found, and so to bring the truth, as it is in Jesus, to bear on the hearts and consciences of men at the outset of social and national existence as that godliness may advance and not decline. Prevention is cheaper and more effective and hence better than cure. Should the church fail to recognize her responsibility, or neglect her opportunity of advancing truth and righteousness, the outlook for the country is not promising, but, should she go in and possess the land for her Lord, God will bless her and make her a blessing.

A large proportion of the settlers in Manitoba are members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church. In some localities they constitute more than one-half of the population, and in almost all districts they cutnumber the adherents of any other denomination. From reasons that lie on the surface, the emigration from the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion may, for some time, be expected to be of this complexion.

A considerable proportion of the settlers are poor. In many instances financial pressure drove them from the homes of their youth. The outlay of beginning life in a new country is heavy; food and clothing, timber and hardware, agricultural implements and cattle are all very expensive. In many parts the people have suffered losses through prairie fires, early frosts, the overflow of rivers, and death among their stock. Such losses overtake all settlers in a new country. The large increase in the contributions of the stations for the support of ordinances during the past year is ample proof, however, that the circumstances of the people are improving. But the sparse character of the settlements and the widening area being possessed year by year, show only too plainly, that unless aid—liberal aid—is forthcoming, for a few years at least, from the older provinces to carry on Christian work, large districts must be without gospel ordinances. Few in the East appreciate how rapidly settlement is going on, and how urgent the demand for missionaries is.

Means are required to assist the people in maintaining ordinances, and also in erecting suitable manses and places of worship. In the portion of country already settled, our church has about one hundred and fifty mission stations and congregations, and about seventeen churches. At over one hundred points, services are conducted in private houses. In many cases these houses are too small to accommodate the congregation; and Sabbath School work is almost impossible. Unless this felt want is removed, it will diminish the effective power of our missionaries, and prove a serious hindrance to the successful prosecution of our work.

To stimulate congregations and to encourage them to erect churches and manses,

the members of the Manitoba Presbytery have for years felt the need of a Building Fund, and steps have been taken by presbytery to give its opinions practical shape. The amount aimed at is at least \$100,000. The subscriptions in aid of the fund may be paid in six semi-annual instalments, the same being due in June and December of the years 1882, 3 & 4. It is proposed to invest the money with congregations and mission stations, or in other words to lend it to them at a low rate of interest to enable them to erect places of worship and manses. The principal and interest will be repaid in annual instalments after the manner pursued by building societies, and the money thus refunded will be re-invested with congregations in the newer districts. The capital is thus to remain intact and to be employed in Church extension as settlement advances. The interest is to be donated to weak congregations for church erection. Only a certain percentage of the cost of any church or manse will be lent to any congregation, and this to render the building fit for service. As land has already been received free of cost at almost every point where stations and congregations are organized, the only expenditure of capital will be building. The Fund is to be administered by a Board appointed by the General Assembly."

This appeal commends itself as a right and reasonable one, and we bespeak for it a hearty response from all who take an interest in the extension of our Church, and the welfare of that great country now opening up for settlement, the religious interests of which, in the Providence of God, have been largely entrusted to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The General Assembly gave its unanimous and cordial approval to this scheme, and commended it to the support of all members and adherents of the Church. Subscriptions in aid of the Fund may be paid in six semi-annual instalments, or to suit the convenience of the subscribers. Already \$65,000 are subscribed. Subscriptions and contributions may be sent to Rev. James Robertson at Winnipeg, or to the agents of the Church at Halifax, Montreal and Toronto.

EDMONTON, N. W. T.

By REV. A. B. BAIRD.

For the Record.

The little church which was established here last fall is making progress, and its effect is beginning to be seen in the improvement of public morals. The stores are now all closed on Sundays, and there has not been a horse-race within the last six months—a very decided amendment on former years, when there used to be a continued dribble of business on the Day of Rest, and when many a man—especially among the half-breeds—