

## HOME MISSION FUND.

The following letter regarding the annual collection and special Thanksgiving day offering has been issued by Rev. Dr. Warden:

Toronto, 28th Oct., 1901.

By appointment of the General Assembly, Sabbath, November 24th, is the day fixed for the annual collection upon behalf of the Home Mission Fund of the Church. There were, last spring, connected with the several Presbyteries of the Western Section, 402 Home Mission Fields, embracing 1,174 preaching stations, at which services are conducted more or less regularly by the missionaries of our Church. Since then, 40 new fields have been opened, so that at the present time there are nearly 1,250 points at which the missionaries give supply. There is a steady increase in the population to the west of Lake Superior, a greater increase during the past season than in any preceding one. The building of the Canadian Northern Railway, and of other branch lines in Manitoba and the Territories, is opening for settlement large districts which it is expected will soon be occupied. The Committee are most anxious, as new settlements open up, to send in missionaries of our Church. Owing to the scarcity of men in Canada, the Committee have been under the necessity of getting a large number from Britain. These have rendered efficient service during the past summer, and have enabled the Church to occupy many fields which otherwise would have been neglected. At the meeting of the Executive on the eighth instant, although the number of men available for work was greater than was anticipated, yet some 44 fields are at present without supply, including Ontario, Quebec, and west of Lake Superior. Efforts are being made to secure men for these.

In addition to what is being done among English-speaking settlers, work has been begun among many of the foreign communities to the west of Lake Superior. We have a medical missionary among the Galicians in the Dauphin District. Five schools have been organized among these people, and teachers appointed, the salaries of whom are paid from the Home Mission Fund. It is expected that the number of schools will be considerably increased in the near future, and that, by means of these, we will get a hold upon these people and be able to influence them for good. We also have one Finn missionary at Fort William and Port Arthur; two Czech; three Hungarian; two German and two Icelandic missionaries—all rendering efficient service.

To carry on the work this year, a revenue of \$97,500 is required. This is about \$25,000 in excess of the normal revenue of last year. We have been greatly indebted in the past to churches and friends in Britain for generous help in carrying on our Home Mission work. This help, however, has been almost entirely withdrawn, so that we are now dependent upon our own church for means by which to carry on the work. The Fund is at present in debt to the extent of \$40,000. The indebtedness at this period is \$6,500 in excess of the corresponding period last year. This is a cause of great anxiety, and, in the name of the committee, I respectfully, but very earnestly, appeal to every minister to lend his aid in bringing the claims of the Home Mission work before his congregation, with a view to secure generous help upon behalf of the Fund.

At the present juncture, I venture to solicit a Special Home Mission Thank Offering in every congregation and mission station of our Church on Thursday, November 28th,

the day appointed by the Dominion Government as a day of Thanksgiving throughout the country; this special Thank Offering to be on behalf of the work our Home Mission committee is carrying on among the foreign population in the West. It is, of course, understood that this Thanksgiving Offering is over and above the regular contributions of your people for Home Missions.

According to the estimate submitted to last Assembly, the expense of the work among the foreigners this year will be \$7,500. The women of the Church, through the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, meet very largely the expense of the work carried on among the Indians of the North-West and British Columbia. A generous offering on Thanksgiving Day in all our congregations would enable the Home Mission committee to meet the expense of carrying on the work among the foreigners who have adopted Canada as their home. The result of this appeal rests with our ministers. If they lend their cordial co-operation, and use their influence in having the offering of Thanksgiving Day devoted to this special department of Home Mission work, the people will readily respond to the appeal, and the total sum will, without doubt, be forthcoming. May we rely on your assistance in this matter?

In order to secure the total amount required for Home Mission work this year, it will be necessary that congregations increase by 25 per cent their contributions of last year. There is no likelihood of this being done unless the claims of the work are presented from the pulpit, and the need specially emphasized. Towards the close of last year a special appeal was made, which was most generously responded to. This, however, cannot be repeated, and the committee are most anxious that they should receive in regular contributions from our congregations and people, the full amount necessary for the efficient maintenance of the work.

Commending the scheme to your hearty sympathy and co-operation,

Believe me, yours sincerely,

ROBT. H. WARDEN,

*Convener Home Mission Committee.*

The congregation of Bank street church had a very pleasant social on the 31st ult. to celebrate the re-opening of the church after the extensive repairs which were made during the summer. Rev. Dr. Moore presided and there were addresses by Rev. Dr. Rose, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Rev. A. A. Cameron, Rev. Wm. McIntosh and Rev. Geo. McRitchie. Other clergymen present were Rev. Wm. Timberlake, Rev. M. H. Scott of Hull, Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Rev. Robert Eadie, of Hintonburgh, Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Rev. Joseph White and Rev. John McLaren of Plantagenet. Miss Gray sang a couple of solos which were most enthusiastically encouraged, and at the conclusion of the programme the company adjourned to the basement where an hour was devoted to refreshments and social intercourse. The supper was served by the Ladies' Aid Society and the rooms were tastefully decorated with flags and flowers.

The Bible teaching on entire sanctification is very distinct and clear. God has declared and He now declares that "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God is faithful and He will do it, if we confess all to Him.

## Literary Notes.

Fifty-nine new students entered upon a course of instruction at the Ottawa Business College during the first two weeks in October. This speaks volumes for the popularity of this fine school. Students may enter any time. For catalogue write the Principal, W. E. GOWLING, Ottawa, Ont.

Fernley House, by Laura E. Richards, is the fifth and last volume in the popular "Three Margarets" Series, and all young girls who have read any of the other stories in this series will be anxious to read this volume too; while those who have not yet made the acquaintance of the "Three Margarets" should lose no time in doing so, for they are most delightful characters of fun and brightness. The story tells of a house party at Fernley House, and incidentally brings in a little love story between Hugh Mountfort and Grace Wolfe, who is perhaps the most interesting of the many interesting characters evolved by Mrs. Richards. The book is nicely gotten up, with several good illustrations, and will make an excellent gift book. Dana Estes and Company, Boston, Mass.

The Studio for October opens with an article on the Hungarian painter, Laszlo, of whose work a large number of illustrations are given, including reproductions in photography of portraits of H. I. M. the German Empress and the Barones Dierghart and two tinted reproductions of portrait studies. The first instalment of an article on "The Artist's Colony at Darmstadt" describes the house of one of the artists, Peter Behrens. Gabriel Mourey has an article on "The Work of M. Le Sidaner," with several illustrations of the work of this artist. The reproductions from a series of photographs by an Italian amateur photographer, Signor Guido Rey, are of much interest. An article on "Old English Glasses" and one on "The Potter's Art," together with Stereotalk, completes this excellent number. Henrietta street, Covent Garden, London, England.

Justin Huntly McCarthy has been for some years constructing a romantic novel founded on the career of Francois Villon. Contrary to the general rule Mr. McCarthy has dramatised his story before publishing it, and Mr. E. H. Sothern in producing it has scored one of his most distinguished successes. "If I Were King" is the title of the now finished novel and it will be published within a few weeks by R. H. Russell in a most attractive setting. In it Mr. McCarthy has presented a most interesting picture of the life and time of Francois Villon, full of thrilling adventure and dramatic episodes and interwoven with as charming a love story as has ever been told, written in that graceful dictation and delightful style of which Mr. McCarthy is a master. There is no doubt that it will be one of the most widely read books of the year. Beautiful drawings in color and pictures of Mr. Sothern and his company in the principal roles, together with attractive type and handsome binding, make the book as charming in appearance as it is fascinating in plot. R. H. Russell, 3 West 29th street, New York.

The Scottish banks have received intimation from the Master of the Royal Mint that no issue of coins bearing His Majesty's effigy will be made during the current year.