

## REPORT.

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*To the Friends and Supporters of the Primitive Methodist Missions in Canada :—*

DEAR FRIENDS,—It affords us much pleasure again to address you as our wont is. Since the last report was published one more year of trial and blessing, of labour and reaping, of conflict and triumph has passed. Those who in the order of Providence have the responsibility of conducting and prosecuting the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in connection with Christian Missions, either foreign or domestic, cannot expect to be free from the trial of their faith and endurance. To those who have the oversight of Missions there are many things that are trying and perplexing to be grappled with. So it is in all the walks of life. We may not expect to engage in anything great or good without meeting with difficulties ; nor need we hope to achieve anything of lasting benefit to the world without conflict ; and we are persuaded none know the truth of this better than Christian missionaries, whether at home or abroad, and those who have the direction of mission work. But, it is also as true, that in no field of labour are results more sure. No seed is more certain to spring up and rejoice the labourer's heart with a rich harvest than the seed of God's word faithfully sown. No trials are succeeded by such rich blessings, and no conflicts have such glorious triumphs. The object for which Jesus came to this world was to teach and suffer and die, and rise again, that he might save sinful lost souls—that by faith in Him they might be renewed in righteousness, made holy, happy and useful during life on earth, and then be taken to the home of blessedness, which He has prepared for His sanctified ones. For whom He sanctifies, them He also glorifies.

This blessed work of saving people, in which angels would delight to engage, God condescends to call believing saved men and women to engage in. How highly honored are they? They are co-workers together with God—divine and human agency combining to promote the divine glory by sanctifying and saving sinful human souls,—such is the purpose of God in the preaching of the gospel of His grace. Such is the object of Christian missions—and such the work of Christian missionaries. To such work the universal Church of Christ is called—is called of God. She has received her commission to preach the gospel in all the world and to every creature, and what the primary work of the church universal is, all the sections of the church are called to. Therefore we, as a section of the church, have received our commission. We have our responsibilities in relation to God's purpose to save the world, and God will hold us accountable to himself for the performance of the work he has given us to do. We cannot evade that work and escape condemnation. Nor shall we perform that work and fail in obtaining the rich and honorable reward promised by God to His faithful servants. No one section of the church can lose its identity and responsibility in the whole church, and when the great harvest home day shall come the churches that have gathered sheaves into the Lord's garner shall be recognized by Him and shall have their recompense ; and these words are as true of us as individuals as they are true of us as a church. As individuals we have a work to do, each has his own work to do and sphere to fill, according to the purpose of God, and the gifts which he has bestowed upon us. In great national conflicts all are not called to join the army. Some do, but the majority remain at home to do business, till the ground, provide the nation's bread, and supply munitions of war, and each man at home is responsible as much as the soldier in the field. So in Christian mission work. Some leave home at the churches' call—and God's call—to preach the reconciling word, and they, like the army, look to those left behind at home to supply the means for carrying on the spiritual warfare. They have given up their worldly calling, their means of making money. They have gone forth at the bidding of God and the church to do the work of God and the church. They have gone in faith, faith in