

"Why are so many or any who actually *do*?" If once we get the true rationale for so many doing this, we shall have the less difficulty in showing why so many *don't*. It is all very easy to talk of fanaticism and superstition, etc., but all such mouthing has become somewhat stale, and in the meantime there is the one fact that thousands upon thousands *do* attend church, and that the benevolent enterprises of the world are all but entirely kept going by those same church goers and their friends. An Agnostic hospital or infidel clothing society would be at once a marvel and an absurdity. Sometimes, no doubt, unbelievers are kind, generous, and benevolent. But if so, they are this in spite of their opinions, not because of them. They have not been able altogether to preserve themselves from being inflamed by the religious and benevolent atmosphere around them. In short, as Disraeli said of Sir Robert Peel, with the necessary limitations, "They have found Christians bathing, and in a few cases have been tempted to run away with their clothes." No doubt very many professed Christians are not so zealous, consistent, and self-denying as they ought to be, but if they were as cold, indifferent, unspiritual, and hypocritical as they are sometimes said to be, the benevolent enterprises of the world would suffer a general and most disastrous collapse. As Dr. Goodwin lately remarked, "Man may glorify the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but such beliefs will never send missionaries to face the material belt of Africa or the cannibals of the South Pacific. Only such tremendous truths as gather round Sinai and Calvary, men's redemption, life and death, heaven and hell, can inspire to such undertakings."

PRIZE ESSAY ON MISSIONS.

THE prize of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS for the best essay on *The Heathen World* has called forth remarks from some exchanges, but not very alarming or wonder exciting. It is no new thing to be told, "We have enough heathen at home. Let us convert them first before we go to the heathen abroad." "That plea," says Phillips Brooks, "we all know, and I think it sounds more cheap and more shameful every year." What can be more shameful than to make the imperfection of our Christianity at home an excuse for our not doing work abroad? It is as shameful as it is shameful. It pleads for exemption and indulgence on the ground of its own neglect and sin. It is like the murderer of his father asking the judge to have pity on his orphanhood. Even the men who make such a plea feel how unheroic it is. As to the relative importance of home and foreign mission work, it is sufficient to say: "This ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone." All the world is the field of the Church, and the Master's imperative, urgent "Go ye," is still thundering through the ages, rebuking the sloth and weakness of the disciples, and inciting to the most heroic devotion and effort for the salvation of the world. No doubt there are heathen at home, and many of them far more inexcusable than those abroad, but is that a reason for neglecting our duty to those abroad? The fact is the Church has been asleep till now, and has only been "playing at missions," as Dr. Duff said, otherwise the great mass of heathenism would now be enjoying the blessings of Christianity. Think of the money spent on rum, tobacco, and sinful pleasures compared with the paltry sum devoted to missions, and yet the cry is, "Why all this waste? Why not spend the money at home where it is so much needed?" Alas! that men should shut their eyes to the clearest evidence in favour of the claims of the perishing heathen. Yet these same objectors are not the readiest to give for the heathen at home. Ask them for a contribution for such a cause, and they plead their inability to help in the enlightenment of those at their own doors. The plea is idle and selfish, and totally unworthy the progress of this nineteenth century. When at Saratoga last summer a distinguished divine could not help observing the expenditure at one of the hotels, and stated that "the wealth centered in a single hotel there would support all the foreign missionaries on the globe for many a year!" If professing Christians had only given a tenth of this substance during the last fifty years, heathenism abroad would have been but a name. Statistics prove that it is at present a sad and solemn reality. Wanted a hundred more like Duff, Casey, and Livingstone! Wanted volunteers for the Lord's battle in Africa, China, India, Japan, South sea Islands. Young men of Knox College, how many of you are willing to say,

"Here am I, send me?" Young men of Queen's, who among you is willing to co-sacrate himself to this glorious work? Students of Montreal, may we not look for some help from you? "The night is far spent, the day is at hand?" Let not the Maritime Provinces eclipse Ontario or Quebec in self sacrifice and devotion to the foreign mission field.

Hark! what mean those lamentations
Rolling sadly through the sky?
'Tis the cry of heathen nations,
"Come and help us or we die."

Hear the heathens' sad complaining;
Christians, hear their dying cry,
And the love of Christ constraining,
Join to help them ere they die.

DAVID MORRICE HALL.

The final act in the opening to the public and the students and professors of the Montreal Theological College took place on Tuesday 28th ult., in the David Morrice Hall. It was the formal opening of the new buildings and the handing over by Mr. Morrice to the Board of Management of the college of the deeds conveying to them the princely gift. The building, when complete, will have cost about \$80,000, and is pronounced by those who are competent judges one of the finest establishments in the Dominion. The architect and the various contractors who carried out his designs have rendered their names illustrious by their finished workmanship, whilst the building itself will be a monument for ages of the donor's true devotion to his Church, and the deep interest which he took in the welfare of candidates for the ministry. Those who spent some time in examining the whole structure have pronounced it a magnificent affair. Leaving details for our readers at leisure, we prefer to dwell more at length on the proceedings of the brilliant assemblage on this interesting occasion.

After having spent some time in noting the beauties of the building, the invited guests, college authorities, and students took their places in Convocation Hall. Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Principal of the college, announced the long metre Doxology, and Professor McLaren leading, the grand old melody seemed to be given with heartfelt unanimity. Rev. Professor Campbell read some verses of Scripture, and Rev. Mr. Mackay, of Crescent street Church, offered the opening prayer. The donor of the Hall and building, Mr. David Morrice, then stepped forward and said: "Mr. Warden,—I beg to hand to you, as representing the College Board, the deed of donation of these buildings, to be hereafter used for the purposes designed." Mr. Warden, having accepted them, said: "I thank you, Mr. Morrice, for this gift on behalf and in the name of the Board of Management of the college, representing as it does, I believe, the largest contribution to our Church from any one person." Principal MacVicar then read the dedication hymn, which was composed by himself. It consists of six stanzas, at once simple, beautiful, and suitable. Then followed the dedication prayer by Rev. Dr. Jenkins. As a specimen of pure Anglo-Saxon, combining all that was deemed essential for the occasion, it is worthy of regard, but it is also attractive for its comprehensive grasp and its pithy and pointed utterances. It breathes a truly devotional spirit. Next came addresses from the College Board and the students. These were very chaste, and conveyed a deep sense of gratitude to the generous donor for all that he had done. To these addresses Mr. Morrice replied in appropriate terms. The Principal then gave an interesting account of the past history of the college and its present efficient equipment; the number of ministers labouring in various parts of the field; the increased number of students, and especially the instrument in effecting such results. This was Mr. D. Morrice, who had not merely given in princely style, but had also spent much time and thought, and by wise and inspiring words had encouraged them to surmount difficulties. He certainly has proclaimed himself a distinguished benefactor. "It is meet, therefore," added the Principal, "that I should thus publicly and in behalf of the senate, the Board, the faculty, the graduates, and the students express our heartfelt deepest gratitude to Mr. Morrice; and I join with him Mrs. Morrice and his family, whose hearts are one with his in every good work in which he is engaged." Next came the address of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Moderator of the General Assembly, as follows:

"This is a day of great gladness and rejoicing in many hearts. It is so with the Principal and Professors of this

college; with the students now in attendance, and those who for many years past have gone forth from its walls to preach the Gospel of Christ; with the Board of Management, whose anxieties regarding this institution have been so greatly lightened by the princely gift of Mr. Morrice; with the members of the Presbyterian Church in Montreal; with the sister colleges in Toronto, Kingston and Halifax, and may I not add, with the representatives of similar institutions connected with other evangelical denominations in this city and Province. In the visible body of Christ's Church upon earth, it is not true that if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; if one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. In the case of the 117,000 members of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion of Canada, I desire to express sincere gratitude for this magnificent addition to our College buildings. Mr. Morrice has made the whole Church his debtor. As long as this edifice stands his name will be held in grateful remembrance, while hundreds of students will cherish for him the tenderest affection as a personal friend and princely benefactor of his Church. The gift itself is magnificent—the building beautiful and symmetrical in its architectural proportions—but the spirit that has prompted such a generous deed is still more valuable. We are pleased to receive contributions toward our College funds when asked for; we are better pleased when they are given unsolicited. We are glad when friends of our Colleges leave behind them large sums of money in token of their attachment to our Church, and to perpetuate their memory. We rejoice yet more when the living are their own executors, and dispense their gifts according to their sense of our need. Mr. Morrice has himself done the latter. He has not waited until old age or death should relax his grasp of riches, but in the prime of life he dedicates his means to the advancement of God's truth and Kingdom on earth. May we not hope that his example will be followed by Christian merchants of every evangelical church? Such gifts have hitherto been exceptional. We have read from time to time of the regal bestowments of such men as Stewart and Lennox, of New York, to Princeton, and look with curious eye upon the complete equipment of such institutions as Yale and Howard and Union Seminary. It has so far been hardly possible for our young country to equal such princely offerings. Our millionaires are but few, and our successful merchants far from numerous. But such names as Hall, and McLaren, and McKay, and Redpath, and Morrice, who have recently endowed our chairs and built our halls, are surely the earnest of a time near at hand when every General Assembly will be called to record such noble and unselfish offerings—when our professors will be set free to prosecute their arduous callings without financial cares, and when abundant accommodation will be provided for the increasing number of students that may be expected in coming years. Those who thus consecrate their means are not only loyal to their Church, but are the truest patriots of our land. The past history of Montreal College is at once interesting and hopeful. Young in years, it is already well equipped. Its halls have in mission fields at home and in the Great North-West and in prominent city pulpits amply fulfilled the expectations formed regarding them. The professors are for the most part our own students, trained in the older institution at Toronto, which means soundness in the faith and unyielding devotion to Presbyterian principles. What more need I say to call forth from this audience the united prayer that God may continue to bless it in coming years, and make it more abundantly useful, in training men of faith for the Gospel ministry? This year has been emphatically the college year of our Church. Since last Assembly two appointments have been made to the teaching staff of this College; two additional professors added to the faculty of Queen's College; an ample endowment begun for Knox College; and now, to-day, we dedicate this noble building to the study and conservation of God's truth and the spread of the grand old doctrines of our common Protestant theology, which are dear to God's children of every communion. What does all this mean? It means that the Presbyterian Church in Canada insists upon an educated ministry, and thus proves herself a not unworthy successor of the Church of John Knox and Reformation times! It means that we are determined to provide for our pulpits trained Canadians, in sympathy with the necessities of our land, without being helplessly dependent upon the charitable offerings of other churches, and now what do we need that this College and our sister colleges may serve the end for which they have been established? We need earnest prayer that Christian parents may devote their sons to the ministry, and that those who go out from our colleges may be men sound in faith, profound in scholarship, able exponents of God's Word, and baptized with Pentecostal fire."

This was followed by congratulatory addresses which the Principal had received from Principals of other colleges, and ministers, and laymen in all parts of the Dominion. Principals Caven, Grant, Henderson, and Wilkes tendered congratulations in behalf of their respective colleges. These addresses were cordially received and applauded. Rev. J. Edgar Hill, the newly-inducted minister of St. Andrew's Church, was requested to close the proceedings with the benediction. In the evening a conversation was held in the new buildings, and amongst those present were represented almost all the beauty and learning of Montreal. On Wednesday evening there was a union of all the churches at the prayer-meeting in the Memorial Hall, and the buildings were thrown open for inspection. It was indeed a red letter day for Montreal Presbyterian College. We join in tendering our heartiest congratulations to the generous donor, the distinguished Principal and able professors, and to those students who have now every inducement to enable them to become successful, able, and honoured ministers of the New Testament.