

### The Home Mission Deficit.

Dear Editor.—As you are aware, the Home Mission Committee is threatened with a deficit of \$8,000, and the Church is asked for a special contribution to avert so unpleasant an ending for the year. The cause of the deficit is honorable to the Committee. The presbyteries and committees in Western Canada strongly urged the Committee to begin a forward movement a year ago, and 43 new missions were put on the list. Two of these have in one year become self-sustaining, and two more augmented charges. The average cost of a mission to the Committee is about \$250.00; forty-three missions meant \$10,750. Here is one item that contributed to the deficit.

For years British churches and congregations have been giving from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars a year to help the H. M. work. A year ago they warned us that they were withdrawing; this year \$6,000, not \$12,000, was remitted. The Church, in increased contributions, offset the falling away in British help, but failed to meet the demands of the expansion.

This deficit should be met at once, and steps taken to prevent a recurrence. Into Western Canada during the past two years 90,000 souls have gone, and the immigration this year promises to be the largest in the history of the country. Of the newcomers, about one-half are foreigners from Northern and Central Europe. This extension of settlement in the West demands prompt attention. New Ontario promise to become the home of a considerable population, they must be cared for. To meet the demands made upon it, legitimate demands, patriotic demands, the Committee should have the requisite means placed at its disposal.

This spring the Committee is starting missions in 33 new districts in the West alone, and it has voted \$5,000 to begin work among the foreigners. Do you ask whether it was wise, in the face of a deficit, to undertake so much new work. I reply, would it have been wise to stand still? If we do not meet the needs of our Home Mission field as they arise, what hope is there of making up the leeway of years at some future time? The Americans have inflicted cruel wounds on their church and country by marking time for the past 8 years instead of advancing. By the neglect of fifty years ago they lost their South and West, and fifty years will not reclaim them. And should the alien population filling up our West be left uneducated, unevangelized, unassimilated. Is there not some danger of our having a second South Africa west of Lake Superior? If our own people are neglected, do we not stand to lose them as we lost in Nova Scotia, the Eastern Townships and on the north shore of Lake Erie?

The church is getting good value for the expenditure. In Western Canada 26 missions became congregations during the year now closing, and at least 38 more can qualify to become augmented charges. In 1881 there were only two congregations in the West, now about 140, of which 100 are self-sustaining.

For the maintenance of the work last year—the figures for the year now closing are not at hand—Ontario and Quebec contributed, on an average, 17 cents per communicant—one cent every three weeks of the year. Surely this is playing

with a large and important branch of the church's work. But I have faith in the people when they get the facts; will not the ministers give the people the facts? Let all help to get this deficit out of the way by the 14th of April.

J. ROBERTSON

Toronto, March, 24th, 1900

### Home Mission Fund.

At the meeting of the Committee last week, the state of the fund was considered at length. After deliberation it was resolved to pay in full the grants due missionaries, and to make an urgent appeal to every congregation of the church for a special collection upon behalf of the Home Mission Fund to be taken on or before the 22nd of April.

In the confident hope that their action will be sustained by the whole church, the committee have promised grants for the year beginning 1st April which will necessitate a revenue of \$100,000.

### The Augmentation Committee.

The Augmentation Committee of the Western Section of the Church commenced its annual meeting in Knox Church, Toronto, on Tuesday. Rev. Dr. Lyle of Hamilton, occupied the chair, and Rev. Dr. Sommerville of Owen Sound acted as Secretary. Those present were: Rev. Dr. Warden, Dr. Kellock, of Richmond, Que; Dr. Robertson, Mr. Tolmie, Windsor; Rev. Dr. Findlay, Barrie; Dr. Herridge, Ottawa; Rev. J. Hay, Renfrew; Rev. W. J. Clarke, London; Rev. A. Henderson, Appin; Rev. W. G. Wallace, Toronto; Rev. E. D. McLaren, Vancouver; Rev. M. MacGillivray, Kingston; Rev. J. A. Grant, Richmond Hill; Rev. J. A. McDonald, Toronto; Mr. A. T. Crombie, Toronto. Claims from the Presbyterian churches for the half year ending March 31st were passed, amounting to \$11,355. The fund showed a balance at the beginning of the year of 3,025. The receipts to date amounted to \$20,256, making a total \$23,281. The expenditures to date were \$12,926. The proportion given to general expenses was \$400. Expenses and interest amounted \$425, making a total of \$13,751. The amount on hand was \$9,530, leaving \$1,825 to be made in order to close the year free from debt. It was resolved that the members of the committee in their respective localities should make an effort to secure this sum before the close of the week, so that the grants to ministers in augmented charges might be paid in full. During the year just closed it was found that a considerable number of congregations had become self-supporting and had passed from the care of the committee, while a still larger number were asking to be allowed to pass from the status of mission stations to that of augmented charges.

### Literary Notes.

Captain Henry Drisler, for twenty-two years with Harper & Brothers, has purchased a substantial interest in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly and the other properties of Frank Leslie's Publishing House. He has been elected a Director and Treasurer of the Leslie house, and will in conjunction with Mr. Frederick L. Colver, the President, manage the company's affairs. A continuance of the remarkable progress of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly as a ten cent magazine is assured by this new connection and Captain Drisler added experience bids fair to further the line of advancement. Mrs. Frank Leslie remains as editor, with Mr. Henry Tyrrell as managing editor and Mr. H. M. Eaton art manager.

"The Real Thrums of Barrie" is to be one of the features of the May Ladies' Home Journal. It is a most charming picture of Mr. Barrie and his beloved Thrums, penned by Miss Mary B. Mullett a writer whose profound admiration for the author led her on a pilgrimage to Thrums. She chatted of Barrie with his neighbors and with the prototypes of his characters in "A Window in Thrums," identified the scenes portrayed in that book, and caught a glimpse of all these with a freshness and enthusiasm which bring Barrie and his home into realistic view, a picture full of spirit, atmosphere and action—literally a moving photograph of the people and place.

The Copp, Clark Company, Limited, of Toronto, have just published in book form the letters written from South Africa by the late Mr. G. W. Steevens to the London Daily Mail, from Oct. 10, the day he landed in Cape Town, on the very eve of the war, to Dec. 6, when within a few days of his fatal illness he wrote the wonderful word-picture, "In a Conning Tower," where he shows us the Naval Brigade manfully playing their part in the defence of Ladysmith. The volume will be treasured by all who read it as a memorial of a man who had won, in a brief career, a well-deserved eminence among his comrades of the press. His friend, Mr. Vernon Blackburn, has added a "Last Chapter," telling us something about Steevens himself. Unlike many who have gathered fame at an early age, he was unspoilt by his success. He had a singularly winning character. One cannot pay a better tribute to his memory than to say, as can be said with truth, that in his few years of strenuous, active life he had made a host of friends and not one enemy. In this, his last work, as in his other writings, the two most prominent features are the wonderful vividness of the descriptions and the simple directness of the narrative. Mr. Steevens, it will be remembered, died in Ladysmith from fever.