

proves of the constitution of Young Peoples' Societies, Auxiliary to the Home Mission Committee, as submitted by the Committee, and article second of said constitution expressly says that the object of the Society shall be, the diffusion of information concerning the Mission work of the Church, especially that done within our own country, and the collection of funds for such Missions."

I might go on and quote the approval given by subsequent General Assemblies, of the efforts made by the Home Mission Committee, to excite the sympathies of the young people of the Church in Home Mission work; but I forbear. There are now three Presbyterian Young Peoples' Auxiliary Societies, besides others in different Presbyteries not thus associated, and although the total contributions so far received may seem small in comparison with the magnificent sum given by the Women's Auxiliary to Foreign Missions, yet they are much valued, as giving evidence of the interest taken by the young people in Home Missions, and as hopeful of greater things in the future.

Now, in these circumstances, I ask, is it fair to attempt in the way described, to override the deliberate action of successive General Assemblies, and represent to the Young Peoples' Societies, that the Home and Foreign Mission Committees have authorized and agreed upon a division of their funds? The Home Mission Committee certainly has not. It never had such a proposal brought before them in any shape or form, and could never have approved it.

In reply to a card I addressed Mr. McKay, I have received the following, which it is only fair to him should be published in full:—

Toronto, August 6, 1895.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Brantford.

Dear Dr. Cochrane,—Your card came to hand yesterday, making enquiry as to the authority upon which the statement is made in the circular issued by the Foreign Mission Committee, that the Home Mission Committee authorized the division of the contributions of Young Peoples' Societies between Home and Foreign work, and stating that such authority was not given, save in a private letter by you to Mr. Conning.

There seems to be two misunderstandings. First, as to the character of that letter which you call private, addressed to Mr. Conning. Mr. Conning was instructed to write to you by a small committee that was considering this question, and when he sent me your reply I accepted it as official, and upon that authority the statement was inserted in the circular. And then I did not understand that Mr. Conning was to write asking authority for the division of the funds of the Young Peoples' Societies, but to ask whether you would be willing to assign to the young people some one field of Home work in which they could take a special interest. That the young people would continue to take an interest in both Home and Foreign, as they have been doing in the past, was not regarded as an open question. I regret very much that you have seen fit to take the position taken by yourself in the Assembly, and by Mr. Henderson in the last PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, that all the funds of the 900 Endeavor Societies throughout the country should be applied to Home work. It has not been so hitherto, and cannot be in days to come, and taking that position is only courting needless conflict. The "golden rule" has been pressing Foreign Missions on their attention for years with some success, and that at this date any person should try to roll back the tide, is to me a surprise. It cannot be done, and to attempt it can only result in an irritation harmful to all schemes. Our only reason for making any reference to Home work in the circular, was the fear that without it the inference might be drawn that we wished to turn all the gifts of the young people into one channel. We do not want that, and do not think it would be good for the Church to do so. It is disappointing to find that the Home Mission Committee is actually working for what we sought to avoid. With yours, I sincerely deplore collision between the Committees, and do not think there is occasion for even as much as there has been. Surely as Christians we can recognize that the work is now, and if differences of method arise, consider them in such a way as not to give the enemy an advantage. I need not say that I greatly appreciate your own work, and regret that there should be a

shadow or misunderstanding. I may add that recently I have asked the judgment of a number of men, one or two of whom are members of the Home Mission Committee, as to your position in this matter, and in every case they expressed disapproval. The general belief so far as I have been able to feel the pulse of the Church, is that the Young Peoples' Societies should be educated into sympathy with all our Church work, especially the two great schemes, Home and Foreign. However, I shall add no more. Please be assured of my willing and personally to do what is fair and most conducive to the advancement of the work as a whole. I am, yours very sincerely,

R. P. MACKEY,

Secretary Foreign Mission Committee.

Having no desire to prolong this correspondence, let me say in reply to Mr. Mackay's letter:—1st, If the Foreign Mission Committee desired the views of the Home Mission Committee, as to a division of Young Peoples' Missionary money, the communication should have come from the secretary, and the matter would have come before the Home Mission Committee. 2nd, Mr. Mackay, (unintentionally no doubt) misrepresents Mr. Henderson's position, and also my own, when he says, "that we want all the funds of the 900 Endeavor Societies throughout the country to be applied to Home work." We desire nothing of the kind. All that we do ask is, that the Young Peoples' Societies sanctioned under the General Assembly's act (and Christian Endeavor Societies also), should at least give weight to the recommendations of the General Assembly as to the claims of Home Missions.

If, as Mr. Mackay intimates, my position in this matter meets with the disapproval of one or two members of the Home Mission Committee, I can only express regret. I am simply defending the Assembly's action, and their disapproval should be directed to the source of legislation. I have neither the leisure, nor if I had, the desire "to feel the pulse of the Church," by approaching individual members either of the Home or Foreign Mission Committee, and getting their approval or disapproval of officials. My business as convener, is simply to carry out the instructions given me by the General Assembly and the Home Mission Committee, which I believe I have done hitherto, to the general satisfaction of its members.

I reciprocate what I believe to be Mr. Mackay's sincere good wishes for the success of Home Missions, and I trust that nothing that I have written now (or ever written), will be considered as derogatory of the grand work in which the Foreign Mission Committee and the Women's Auxiliary are engaged.

I have just received the following letter from Dr. Robertson, the moderator, who, as superintendent of Northwest Missions, feels strongly in this matter. May I ask you to give it a place in your columns along with this letter. Yours faithfully,

WM. COCHRANE,

Convener Home Mission Committee,  
Brantford, August 9, 1895.

#### Dr. Robertson's Letter.

WINNIPEG, MAN., July 10, 1895.

DEAR DR. COCHRANE,—In the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW of the 25th inst., appears a circular signed by the Rev. R. P. Mackay, which, I confess, surprises me a little. In brief the circular recommends all Young Peoples' Societies belonging to the Church to contribute to the Mission Schemes of their own Church—which is perfectly right and proper—and suggests that some specific field be selected from time to time, and the efforts of the societies directed to the support of mission work there. The circular concludes, "By the authority of the Committees Home and Foreign, we suggest that for the year 1895-6 contributions be given for the support of missions in Honan and British Columbia." Mr. Mackay adds, "A considerable number of societies have already agreed to this arrangement, and the first leaflet, with the first letter from one of our missionaries upon the work in Honan, will be issued in a few weeks." This arrangement between the committees is new to me, and I write for information. If this action was contemplated surely it ought to have been reported to the Assembly and the sanction of that court secured.

The Assembly of 1894 authorized the organization of Young Men's Missionary

Societies, to raise moneys, and instructed that in the application of moneys raised, special attention be given to the necessities of the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds. That Assembly also expressed approval of an overture praying for the formation of Home Mission Societies affiliated with a Presbyterian Society, and remitted the overture to the Home Mission Committee to perfect such a scheme. In 1891 the Home Mission Committee reported to the Assembly, submitting a constitution for Young Peoples' Societies, with provision for the Presbyterial and Synodical Societies. This constitution received the approval of the Assembly; and since that time steps have been taken to organize such societies, and with gratifying success, as appears from the Home Mission report submitted to the last Assembly.

If the arrangement referred to by Mr. Mackay has been effected it seems to me to contravene the spirit if not the letter of the Assembly's legislation and to me at least in part, counter to the aims of the Home Mission Committee in the past in the organization of such societies.

And I am more than surprised that such action as indicated, viz: that the contributions of these societies should go to support Foreign Missions, should have been taken this year. You know it was by a very special effort that the Home Mission Committee got enough money last spring to pay its missionaries their full grant. The Foreign Mission Committee on the contrary had a surplus of \$17,200. The outlook in Ontario for this year is not promising and yet our Home Mission obligation are heavier than last year. How in these circumstances did the Home Mission Committee consent to have its treasury drained in the way indicated?

If the compact of the circular has been effected, it seems to me it will diminish our revenue when we most need it to be increased, that it will demoralize our organizations and defeat, to a great extent, the aim of the Assembly. If there has been no such understanding between the committees as Mr. Mackay thinks then the circular should be promptly withdrawn, and the societies set right. I am writing only, of course, as a member of the Home Mission Committee; but I am writing to you as convener, for you can give the facts in the case as far as the Home Mission Committee is concerned.

With much respect. Yours truly,

J. ROBERTSON.

#### Post Office Addresses Wanted.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—I have not been able to ascertain the post-office addresses of all the new members of the Sabbath School Committee. I should be very much obliged if the parties themselves, or the member of the committee on nomination of standing committees who suggested their names, or any other friend would drop me a postal card with the proper addresses of the following: Messrs James Gordon, J. J. Ferguson, A. S. Macgregor, J. Kease, D. M. Buchanan, and the street addresses of Messrs. James Ross, Montreal, and John Jones, Toronto.

If these gentlemen do not yet notice of the meeting of the Sabbath school committee, they will understand that I was unable to communicate with them. The committee will meet (D. V.) in the lecture room of Central Church, Toronto, on Tuesday, September 10th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Yours sincerely,

T. F. FOTHERINGHAM.

Convener S. S. Committee.

St. John, N.R., Aug. 12, 1895.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR,—Please allow me to publicly thank and bless Mr. L. J. Papineau, of Mont-Relle, for the noble gift of \$100 just sent me to help us to build our dear *Saint Jean Baptist* church, on St. Catherine street. You know that that generous benefactor of our young and struggling congregation had already given us \$100 at the laying of the corner stone. As we are in need of \$4,000 more to finish that church, we earnestly ask all the friends of the evangelization of the French-Canadians to give us, just now, the help we want, in order to finish that house of prayer before the cold days of winter.

C. CHIRIQUY.

Montreal, 65 Hutchison at., July 12, 1895.