

Foreign Missions.

Contributions.

Ontario.
J. H. Haines \$10 00
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Concerning the Collection

There is but one offering asked from the churches in a year for Foreign Missions. The first Sunday in March is the time suggested for making this offering. It ought to be self evident that there ought to be a very marked increase in the number of churches contributing and in the amounts contributed. Last year 976 churches sent an offering to the treasury of the Foreign Society. That is to say, one church in six aided this work. There is no reason why every congregation should not have some fellowship in sending the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth. Last year no church gave as much as five hundred dollars, only thirty-one gave as much as one hundred dollars. There are at least a score of churches able to give a thousand dollars each. There are hundreds able to give a hundred or more each. The time has come for more and larger offerings for the evangelization of the world.

The offerings for this purpose would be larger than they are if good heed was given to some suggestions made at the Louisville Convention two years ago. These suggestions are as follows: First, "that the preacher and official board of each congregation decide, before the time, on the minimum amount that, in their judgment, such congregation ought to offer to the Lord." Second, "that a careful canvass of the congregation be made for cash offerings or subscriptions, payable within thirty days." Third, "that there be full preparation of prayer and instruction before the offerings, and that the congregations rely no longer upon impromptu basket collections only." Last year of the churches that gave something in aid of this work several hundred gave less than five dollars each. Five out of six gave nothing. This would not be the fact if every minister did his duty. A basket collection once a year is a very inadequate source of supply for a great enterprise like this. This ought to be made a matter of careful study and ample instruction and fervent prayer to Almighty God. The amount that the congregation ought to attempt to raise ought to be decided upon in advance. This decision ought to be made in view of the present magnitude of the work and of its proposed enlargement. The members ought to be canvassed for cash or pledges. It will be found, as has often been found, that single members will give more when solicited in this way than the whole congregation ever gave in a single year before. It is of the greatest consequence that the work and its need be fully set forth. When the congregations know the facts they will give on a generous scale.

If the week preceding the collection is observed as a week of prayer and self-denial, the offerings in many instances will be quadrupled. We can do without our accustomed luxuries for one week, and be the better for it. We can deny ourselves of a score of things. A little plain living and high thinking will make the heart better, and will be in consonance with our profession. The gospel calls for self-denial. Our Lord said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny self and take up his cross and follow me." We are informed of his grace, that, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. He emptied himself of his honor and glory that he

might save a lost world. If we would be his disciples we must be willing to deny ourselves that we may increase our usefulness.

It is proposed to raise one hundred thousand dollars this year for Foreign Missions. This is not a great sum for a people nearly a million strong to raise for such a cause as this. It is a very small sum for the greatest of all enterprises. If each one gave seventeen cents, the whole amount would be raised, and more. Is seventeen cents too much? The Congregationalists propose to raise a million dollars this year. That means two dollars each. If all, or even a third, of the Disciples of Christ were thoroughly enlisted, the amount proposed would be raised, and twice that amount.

A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec.

A Band of Thieves.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE WEST, GREETING!—A happy New Year to you all. And since I have known you so long, and loved you so well, I think it is time you make my acquaintance. But don't, please, skip to the bottom of the page to see who it is greeting you, for I feel very much as the jealous little sister must have felt, when, on her mamma greeting her by the sweet name of pet, answered, "It is not pet, mamma; it is only me."

Yes, I have loved you well, and love you still, though you did send your Band of Thieves, called by you the F. M. S., away out here, and from our little garden stole the rose, my queen of flowers, and carried her away to be transplanted in distant, darkened China. 'T is well, for in breaking off the branch you did not kill the roots, and my heart is now beyond the sea, and praying for poor, poor China.

And I am sure that God's hand is guiding our dear brothers in this work, else how could they find and choose the very best every time they select one for the Master's work? And I am so thankful that my darling's lot is cast with so noble a band of God's workers.

Dear mothers, you, and you alone perhaps, can understand how well I love my baby. I would like you all to know what I have given for Missions. In the first place, I have given two little hands that have filled my own for more than twenty years. Two little feet, that have followed me like a shadow ever since they could walk alone. Two braids of light brown hair, that used to coil around her white neck, all dripping with water, as we together bathed and laughed and splashed each other, like two school-girls, down in the dear, old creek, in the happy summer days that are past and gone forever. Two blue eyes, large, full, round, baby eyes, that mamma loves with all her soul.

'T is evening now; go with us into our little parlor, please; listen to her as we kneel in prayer. Note how tenderly she breathes the names of Kate, of Ida, of Minnie, of Irene, and others of those lovely school-girl friends with whom she has so recently parted, perhaps forever.

And this is my mission gift. What is your gift, my friends? Nay, rather, what will be your gift and mine for 1892? What shall we give to our blessed Lord, who has promised eternal life to all who love and obey him?

If he that loveth son or daughter more than Christ is not worthy of Christ, then surely he that loveth silver or gold or houses or lands more than Christ can not be worthy of Christ. And, again, what shall it profit us to gain the whole world and lose our souls?

On the 11th of September, 1890, at Pittston, Pa., I parted with my baby, holding to the little hand until the motion of the train tore us apart, to

meet again, God knows when. Though she is a woman now, a noble woman, doing a noble work for the Master, yet to me she is just my baby. And though she has left father and mother, home and friends, and turned her face to a world of strangers, knowing that years must roll by before she will meet again with those she loves so dearly, yet my daughter is not unhappy; far from it. She is very happy in her new home, with her new found friends, and most of all, that she can do something for Jesus. O, that I, too, might be of some use in the Master's vineyard.

We recently enjoyed a visit from Bro. Meigs. After listening to his story of China's need of gospel light, I trust it may, ere long, be said of our little church in general, as it may now be said of some of its loved ones: "She hath done what she could." Bro. Meigs won the love and admiration of all. And now farewell; but, if you should hear me cry thieves, gather closely your loved ones, for this band of ours is sure to choose the very best of your sons and daughters. MRS. DENNIS SICKLER, Sutteo, Wyoming County, Pa.

Obituaries.

WALKER.—Died in the township of Rainham, January 25th, Sister Eliza Walker, beloved wife of Bro. Robert Walker, age 85 years. Sister Walker united with the Church of Christ at Sweet's Corners in the fall of 1889, and continued a faithful, devoted Christian until her removal by death, always in her place in the church and ready to assist in every good work. The congregation at Sweet's Corners greatly mourn the loss in the removal of one so young and useful, yet we verily believe the loss to the congregation and her sorrowing husband and family is her gain. The deceased was the eldest daughter of William Beasy, merchant at Sweet's-Corners, and the first one taken away from the family by death; and my prayer is that our kind heavenly Father will grant these aged parents strength for this sad day of trial through which they are passing. The writer was called upon to officiate upon the occasion, and after laying her away we say with the poet—

Peaceful be thy silent slumber,
Peaceful in the grave so low;
There no more shall join our number
Though more our songs shall know.

Yet again we hope to meet thee
When the day of life is fled;
Then in heaven we'll join to greet thee
Where no farewell tear is shed.

West Lorne, Ont. R. M. A.

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