

knowing something of the ability of the Congregational Churches in Ontario and Quebec, and also in the direction in which Congregationalists in England are disposed to work, I see little hope of ultimate success in spreading Congregational churches over this great region, and I think it would be wiser to concentrate effort where we already are, that is, to strengthen our churches in Ontario and Quebec, than to dissipate our energies over so vast a territory; God assigns different fields to different churches (when? and where?) and it does not seem His will that the Congregationalists should be responsible for preaching the Gospel in these regions."

The above may be wise counsel. If so, why does J. B. S. now hurl such a charge at the Missionary Society. Have the circumstances of the country changed? If they have he has not informed the Society of it. He has not pointed out any field of missionary labour, nor asked for a single labourer. The only help we have had from him since has been the very doubtful help contained in the communication that has compelled me to write as I do now. The executive was not discouraged in the least by his letter. We continued our inquiries regarding the places referred to. The Rev. R. MacKay, Rev. C. Duff, and several correspondents on the ground, encouraged us to go forward. The Colonial Missionary Society promised additional aid for one or two places, and two brethren believed to be well qualified for work in the North-West were asked to go, one to settle at once, the other to spend the summer with a view to his return this spring. Both of the brothers had entertained the proposal, and were about to proceed. Naturally enough they put themselves in communication with J. B. S. and here again he blocked our way, for he strongly advised them not to go. To one he said: "*My idea is, that you might just as well spend your summer's work in the moon.*" This may have been sound advice, and helpful to the Missionary Society. The young man did not care for a trip to the moon. The other brother decided not to go, and the executive was thwarted. Perhaps it was all for the best, but knowing these things, how can J. B. S. write the letter I refer to in your February number. How can he say: "Inasmuch as the Congregational Missionary Society does not consider Manitoba and the North-West Territories a part of Canada, and therefore out of their field?"

More recently still, the executive had decided to place a missionary in another part of the North-West, and final arrangements were made to move him from his distant residence in the United States, when it transpired that he was in sympathy with the views expressed by the Winnipeg pastor; to use that gentleman's own simile he wanted to put the new wine of Congregationalism into the old bottles of Presbyter-

ianism. As the Missionary Society does not receive any support for this object, the executive declined to accept his services. I think I have said enough to convince your readers that the Canada Congregational missionary does consider Manitoba and the North-West Territories part of Canada and therefore in the field, and that they differ from the Winnipeg pastor in believing that God does intend the Congregationalists to preach the Gospel in the great North-West.

*The great want of to-day is men.* The men for the North West or any other part of our country must be loyal to Christ and to their denomination, and as a rule, as Dr. Cuyler remarked recently, those who are not loyal to the latter are not loyal to the former. The Missionary Society is fully alive to the wants of every part of the Dominion, and as the Lord gives it men and means and suitable openings, it will plant churches everywhere between the Atlantic and Pacific. I had thought that the experience of New England Congregationalism thirty years ago, in reference to work in the Western States, would have been sufficient for us. They confined their labours to the East, content to train men in their colleges, and co-operate with other denominations on the plan that J. B. S. suggests; but they have been obliged, after that plan signally failed and they received for their generosity, just what *I knew* J. B. S. is now receiving, *pity and contempt* from these same churches, to begin their work in all these Western and North-Western States, and they have begun their work and are now organizing in different parts of the Union, some twenty-five churches every year. They find that Congregationalism is just as suitable to any part of the great west as it is in Maine or Massachusetts, and just as suitable to old Sweden as to New England. Give us the men who are consecrated to Christ and the work of saving souls, who believe in these principles of Church government, and who are not ashamed of them, even when overshadowed by large organizations, and we have no fear for the future of our cause in the Dominion.

It will be a surprise to the Colonial Missionary Society that came to the help of the Winnipeg church in its early days, and to the princely men in Montreal who have stood by it with their means and influence, as well as to others who have done something to forward the cause, to find the man who has been sent there by money drawn from the pockets of Congregationalists, who has been twice brought to the Union largely at the expense of the Society to give information and help in missionary work in the North-West, that all this time he was playing into the hands of other denominations, and though on one occasion he came very near unsettling one of our most successful ministers in the east, in order to join him in work in the west, yet when that brother seriously entertained