

French, Indian, Chinese and Japanese missions, schools and missionaries.

The Board strongly recommended that something should be done to reduce the number of home missions, as some places had been missions forty years. Means should be adopted also to prevent so many Protestant missionary societies labouring in the same localities, as such proceedings involved unnecessary expenditure both of men and money.

The foreign missions in China and Japan presented many interesting features. In the former a chapel had been built, largely by the aid of a liberal friend at Halifax, N.S., also two parsonages and a dispensary were in course of erection.

With a view to reduce expenditure the number of members on the General Board has been reduced. The General Secretary has generously reduced his own salary \$500. A reduction is also made in the salary of the assistant, so that the expense of management will thus be reduced \$2,000.

Owing to increasing demands, the Board at its late meeting could only make grants to the domestic missions averaging about seventy per cent. of their claims. This is a great hardship. Cases have come to the present writer's knowledge, where young men, university graduates, received smaller allowances than female teachers in the public schools. It is to be hoped that during the current year there may be an increase of income. A Children's Day and collections in the Sunday-schools should help to swell the amount of income to \$250,000.

Embarrassed Trusts Board Report.

Several trusts, nineteen in all, including St. Lawrence Camp Ground, have been aided to the

amount of \$16,145.98, besides the sum of \$17,454.27 paid in interest to various trusts on borrowed money. There are now only five trusts besides the camp ground, which have not been wholly relieved. An increase of one per cent. during the next four years will do much to completely relieve the embarrassment. The collections received in four years amount to \$17,550.35.

Superannuation Board Report.

The invested capital amounts to \$206,038.83, an increase of \$29,038.83, since 1890. The number of claimants has increased, so that there are now 204 ministers, 151 widows, and eighty-two children receiving aid from this fund.

During the quadrennium there was an increase from investments, but a decrease from ministers' and circuits' subscriptions.

In future ministers' subscriptions are to be in proportion to their salaries, on which they are to pay three per cent., none less than \$15, on salaries of \$500 or under. Departments which have the services of ministers are to contribute an amount equal to what the circuits would be likely to contribute should those ministers be employed in the pastorate.

General Conference Fund Report.

The income for the quadrennium was \$22,352.70, but the expenditure was \$37,192.02. The excess in the expenditure arose largely from unforeseen expenses in connection with the Ecumenical Council, law expenses, committee meetings on union, and commission on boundaries. If the various Annual Conferences will exceed their collections during the quadrennium twenty per cent., the deficit may be removed by the General Conference of 1898.

DEAR Lord, I thank Thee Thou dost understand,
And through the mist and cloud
Safe Thou wilt lead me to the light at last,
Holding my hand.