

Our Mission News.

A Monthly Magazine published in the interest of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

TERMS:—ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

All Communications to be addressed to

REV. C. H. MOCKRIDGE, D. D., HAMILTON, ONT.

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY.

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ORGANIZE.

HERE are those who object to Societies, Associations, Guilds, etc., on the grounds that there are too many organizations already existing, that the Church itself is a complete organization, and the only one necessary, and so forth. But have not the very best results followed from organizations? Witness the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. How else could the Missionary spirit which now exists in England have been aroused but by means of organized Societies, such as that, and the many others that are doing a similar work? These Societies represented bands of men united for the purpose of work in the direction of that which lay next their hearts. How again, could the work which has been done in England against intemperance have been accomplished without such an organization as the Church of England Temperance Society? Such organizations are fruits which come from zeal. They are indications of life. The Church of England in Canada has now her regularly authorized Missionary Society. By it the attention of members of our church, it is hoped, will be drawn specially to this great subject which contains in itself the elements of true vitality in the Church. We need societies and organizations. They are healthy. Those parishes which have them are usually active and flourishing. How many parishes have their Missionary Auxiliaries and Societies? The sooner they are formed the better. As the Ascension tide Appeal of this year well says:—

“Like the air we breathe; like the brooklet, the river and the mighty ocean itself; like the vital fluid within our own veins, Christianity, to be healthy and pure, must be kept in continued activity. Her life is found in work, and the first and greatest work laid upon her is to help the benighted and the fallen, and to bring them within the fold of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

EXPENSE.

There are those again who object to Societies, on the grounds of the expense connected with their management; but like everything else this has two sides. No Society can be managed without incurring expense. In most of our Dioceses the various

funds, even such a charitable fund as the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, have to be taxed, by taking a certain per centage of them to pay the salary of the officer necessary to manage them. So that when a Society is formed it has an absolute right to use such portion of the funds placed at its disposal as it may deem necessary for the purpose of advancing vigorously its own interests. It has been shown by actual calculation that the per centage of contributions raised by the great missionary societies at home, for meeting their running expenses, are very small indeed; and it must be remembered that, but for these Societies, those funds would not be in existence.

As far as our Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society is concerned, the expense hitherto incurred has been of the smallest possible nature. More work has been done by individuals for this Society as a labour of love than perhaps any of its members are aware of, and there are those ready to find fault with the smallest appropriation in the direction of pushing its own interests. But the Society must be a live Society or none at all. Its friends should be warm friends and help it in every direction. The idea of forming all the bishops and all the dioceses into *One United Board* in behalf of the noble cause of Missions is a grand one, and one which should commend itself to the kindly feelings and even enthusiasm of the members of the Church of England in this country; but common sense alone will show that a certain percentage of the funds placed at its disposal must be used in the management and advocacy of its own affairs.

OUR MISSION NEWS.

THE first congratulatory letter sent us on the initial number of our periodical, was from the Rev. Alfred Brown, Rector of Paris, Diocese of Huron. The first dollar was sent by our good friend the Rev. E. M. Bland, of St. Catharines, Ont., and the second by Rev. John Gribble, of Port Dalhousie, who, in his letter was kind enough to say: “I have never seen a more attractive missionary periodical, and I hope it may not only be successful in itself, but that it may lead to a growth in missionary zeal among Canadian Churchmen.”

Since then numbers of congratulatory letters have been received and are arriving every day. And they are from all parts of the Dominion, from Halifax to Winnipeg and Qu'Appelle, whose bishop has written us exceedingly kind and encouraging words. Rev. G. M. Armstrong, of St. John, N. B. has not only written kindly but is working substantially for us, and Mr. Lawrence Skey, of Port Dover, Ont., is doing the same, having already sent us a number of subscribers. We should like to speak of others who have been exceedingly kind, but space forbids. We must mention, however, our indebtedness to Rev. Dr. Partridge, (on whom we have come to rely as a co-worker) and Rev. F. R. Murray, both of Halifax, whose zeal on our behalf has been a bright spot in our labors.