

MORAL :—Have annual collections for our religious and philanthropic objects in the Church supplemented by *subscription list* outside.

Yours truly,

JOHN W. GOFFIN.

Waterville, Quebec, May 2, 1890.

THE COLLEGE AND THE MISSION CHURCHES.

Sir,—In the last number of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Rev. Chas. E. Bolton has introduced a subject for discussion, of very great importance to the Cong. Churches of Canada at the present time: "Shall we abolish the office of Missionary Superintendent?"

I affirm that many more changes will necessarily have to be made than the one implied in the question asked, before we can be successful as a Missionary Society. I cannot do better than introduce to the readers of the INDEPENDENT more of the experience of our brethren in the State of Michigan than Bro. Bolton has given.

Quotation from the report of the executive committee of Home Missions in Michigan, March 31st, 1886.

"We cannot depend upon the theological seminaries to train the men needed for Home Missionary work. However well the seminaries may succeed in fitting men for the work of the American Board, for professorships in colleges, for pastorates of city churches, or as specialists in various departments of literature and science, they do not train the men needed for the smaller churches and new fields. Your committee beg again to urge upon your attention, as we have done heretofore, the need of a training school to fit for the ministry the large number of men who are strongly inclined to preach, but who, by reason of their age or their poverty or family responsibilities, cannot come into the ministry through the ten years' course offered by our colleges and theological seminaries. The Lord calls many men to preach, for whom a college or seminary course is impracticable; and if we could find a way to help these men into the work with such preparation as may be practicable for them, we should not long be in want of good men for our Home Missionary fields. Our traditional methods of training practically close the door to the ministry against many men who would gladly come in, and who, as experience shows, might be very useful. Let us once for all recognize the fact that the majority of the men whom God is to-day calling and bringing into the Congregational ministry in the United States, do not come by the way of the college and the seminary. We have taken great pains to smooth the way into the work for the minority who come by college and seminary; but we have done nothing to help into the work the growing majority who came from other sources to recruit our ranks. While we pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest, let us act in the line of His providence. Let us begin here in Michigan a training school

to fit for Home Missionary service the great number of men who would be glad to come, if they could receive a practical training in a reasonable time, but who cannot take the traditional ten years' course of preparation. Bangor has practically become such a special training school. Of its twenty-eight students, but two have a college degree. Bangor supplies the men for the smaller churches of Maine. Without this school many of these churches must die. There is great and growing need of such a school in Michigan. Your committee respectfully and urgently request that this subject of a Home Missionary training school be referred to a special committee to report during this meeting.

All our officials in Ontario know the kindness and liberality of our friends in Montreal to the students and College, and appreciate it all in the highest degree possible, but at the same time know that in the early course of the training of our young men for the ministry, it would have been much better if some of them had been under the care of a suitable minister in the City of Toronto, where they could have kept the pulpits of many of our country churches supplied all the year round. For Ontario properly managed, offered the best fields for missionary operations.

I also think we have missed it greatly in the past, in not grouping a number of churches under one pastor; sufficient to make a field self-sustaining in a reasonably short time in the rural districts. For those small churches do not average more than two hundred dollars a year of income, taking the country throughout.

No missionary society can afford to keep up one small church, with such an income, through all time, without a fearful loss of missionary revenue.

I think another great hindrance to our success is, that many of the young men of the present day do not appear to be prepared to grapple with the difficulties that have to be encountered to be a successful Home Missionary; and too readily go off to the United States or other places, and leave our Canadian work to suffer.

A successful Home Missionary is not only a teacher of Christian doctrines, but a leader of his people in every good work. He should labor for the erection of a good church edifice, if need be, and to have a good praying band around him. He should have as large a bible-class as possible, and see that every church under his care should have a well-taught Sabbath school, and be prepared to hold evangelistic services when good can be done by them; and never allow his heart to fail under diffi-