

## THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Forward Movement Headquarters,  
Baptist Church House, Toronto.

My Dear Mrs. Trotter:

I warmly appreciate your offer of two pages of the January "Canadian Missionary Link" for a communication concerning the Baptist Forward Movement.

Instead of supplying an "article," I feel disposed to write a letter. I am moved to do this by memories which come flocking into my mind when I think of that past out of which the present Editor of the "Link" and the writer of these lines have come.

I think of your saintly father, the late Rev. David Freeman; of his great love for the Bible; of his reverent emphasis upon family religion; of his great services in the interest of Home Mission churches; of his devotion to Christian education; of his enthusiasm for Foreign Missions; of his high ideals of Christian character, and his triumphant religious life.

When I think of the conditions in the villages and rural districts of our native province when we were children; of the church-going habits of the people; of their reverence for the Bible; of the mothers who importunately prayed that God would call their sons into the Christian ministry; of parental sacrifices that their children might become qualified by education to serve the Lord more usefully; of the great revivals, I realize more keenly than ever the need of the present Forward Movement. In many respects there has been progress. Many good things are done now which were not done a generation ago. But we must not forget that these are the fruit of the Christian faith and fidelity of our fathers and mothers. The fine flowering of Christian heroism, sacrifice and goodwill during the last five terrible years, which has commanded the admiration of the world, did not come of a negligent faith or a lax morality. There has been recent greatness of soul because of a former greatness of faith. But are present conditions of Christian faith adequate for future years of stress? They will come, these years of stress. Indeed, they are already at hand. They are pressing upon us. Under that pressure not a few have begun to give way. Many have neither the moral standards nor the modesty that they had ten years ago, or five years ago. Many apparently have dropped God out of their thoughts. Public worship no longer attracts them. The place of prayer has no charm for them. Were they to declare themselves to be trusting humbly in Jesus Christ for salvation, all who know them would be filled with a great surprise.

You remember, how in the dark hours of the war, when our hearts carried an almost insupportable burden, we looked forward with hope to the day when the war would be over. We knew that we and tens of thousands of others in Canada were learning deeper things of God. We felt that whatever changes came, we should never cease to have towards Christ a greater, thankful, tender trust and a loyalty which would make us willing to undertake eagerly any service which Christ might require of us. Undoubtedly the sad experiences of the war are bearing fruit now in more steadfast devotion to Christ and the Church on the part