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A MISSIONARY SURPLUS!

The figures given in the Missionary Budget, on another page, produce sensations like those of a poor family on receiving an unexpected legacy. After they have recovered the first shock of surprise, congratulated one another on their good fortune, and indulged in a hearty laugh at the novelty of the situation, comes the question, so fruitful of debate, *What shall we do with it?* in answer to which, plans enough are proposed to absorb the amount an hundred times over!

In our case, the pleasant sense of having a balance at our banker's is not a little diminished by the recollection, how we came by it. There was work to be done with this money. There were gardens of the Lord going to waste again. There were new fields open for cultivation. But experienced labourers had gone to other vineyards, and new ones had been scared away. There is no cause for self-gratulation, either in Canada or in England—no call for triumph over the success of a sounder policy. *Money* is saved, it is true; but *the cause* for which money is contributed suffers grievous loss. Doubtless, the giving of a "lump sum" to be distributed at the discretion of a cis-Atlantic Committee, and the division of a portion of the responsibility for grants among the District Committees, were improvements upon the former arrangements. But—though for many reasons we regret to be compelled to say it again—our duty to the occasion demands the statement, (and "we know whereof we affirm,") that we should not have suffered all these losses, had not the hand which offered the cash so freely plied the lash. Enough, however, on a theme which we should have been glad to pass by.

Until we know what proposals the Colonial Missionary Society make for the coming year, it is rather premature to discuss our own arrangements; yet we may, in a few words, indicate some good uses to which any enlarged means may be put.

The movement for the augmentation of the salaries of existing pastors, of which so much has been said, (and not without effect, as we are happy to see.)