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Gratitude to God.

THE word "thanksgiving" is too often robbed of half its meaning, the second part of the compound becoming merged in the first. To-day, let us not only give thanks; let us also thankfully give. There is a practical difference between "thankfulness" and "thanksgiving" and it is meet we should be reminded of the fact to-day. It was said, of old, "to obey is better than sacrifice," but there must be works as well as faith; with love there must be love's service. The right frame of mind towards God is consistent with the outward pledge of self-sacrifice for His cause, and our national day for giving thanks will fall far short of its purpose unless the hand goes with the heart, the offering with the praise.

The fall of the year is an appropriate season for rendering public thanks to God for the bounties of His Providence. Whether the particular date fixed for the observance be the most suitable or not, it is at least proper that one day before the close of the year, and after the ingathering of the earth's yield should be set apart by the Government for national thanksgiving, and it is of great importance that the day should be properly observed by religious ordinances. When we consider, for a moment, the goodness so graciously bestowed upon our country during the past year, we must admit the deep obligation we are under to the Father of Mercies, and it is at His altar, and in the attitude of devout worship that our thanks and our thank-offerings ought to be offered up. It is, therefore, a source of sorrow that the day thus set apart should be used for military displays; for excursions from home, and for the purpose of a general holiday. The churches ought to enter a united protest against the prevalent desecration of Thanksgiving Day and seek to educate the public mind to a right sense of duty.

Peace and plenty have reigned in the land; the harvest has been abundant, supplying food for the people, and an average of prosperity has blessed the thrifty artisan and man of business. The country has not proved an El Dorado to all and sundry, nor will it in times to come; but diligence, sobriety and honest effort have had the usual recognition and reward. Law has been respected and well-obeyed; no foreign complication clouds the horizon of the State and a hopeful commercial spirit prevails. What need we more? In the struggle for existence it would be unreasonable to expect more than a fair opportunity; and that, with quiet, with sweet liberty, and with boundless natural resources we fully possess. In the domain of church effort the past year has had its successes for which we thank God and take courage. The difficulties of the field are not insuperable; even "hard times" have been known to vanish before the sunshine of Gospel love. Let the church rejoice this

day over her labors, over her advances, over her prospects, and render praise to her glorious Head, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the never-failing source of her strength and inspiration.

Mission Conference in Winnipeg.

This is an age of Conferences, it is sometimes said, with an incipient sneer, nevertheless we believe in Conferences. They are but a phase of the co-operative tendency that has accomplished such marvels in recent times, in all departments of economic as well as religious progress. Man was intended neither to live nor to work alone, and two heads are ordinarily better than one. This Conference to which we make special reference, was a gathering of missionaries laboring amongst tribes of Indians in distant and isolated fields throughout Manitoba and the North-West. Some had never met each other before although employed in similar work, and no doubt familiar with each other's annual reports. There are thirty five in the entire staff and of these twenty three were present. They came directly from the work, some burdened with discouragements others confident and hopeful. We can imagine, the satisfaction with which they would grasp each other by the hand and exchange views on problems common to mission polity. It is to be regretted that on account of absence in the Old Land Professor Hart was not with them. The church is more indebted to Professor Hart than is generally known for service in connection with this department of her work. He is one of the faithful, silent toilers, who is never fully appreciated until after the work is done. But the indefatigable joint Conference, Professor Baird was present and few are better fitted to introduce strength and good fellowship into such a gathering. We notice that other members of the North-West Committee, such as Principal King, Rev. Joseph Hogg and Dr. Duval, were present who also took part in the discussions. Amongst topics discussed, was the important one of an acquaintance with the Indian language. It seems that a difference of opinion exists as to the value of a knowledge of the language to teachers, engaged in instructing Indian children in the English tongue, but there is no room for a difference of opinion as to the importance of facility in the use of the Indian language on the part of the preacher, who has to deal with adults who cannot and never will be able to understand English. The interpreter is a mere make-shift to be dispensed with at the earliest date possible. Any minister who does not sufficiently realize the importance of his work, or has not the ability to acquire a working knowledge of the language of the people amongst whom he labors may fairly be regarded as insufficient and his appointment should be re-considered. It is strange that there should be occasion for remark, on the impropriety of paying Indians for giving attention to religious duties. That there could be but one opinion on that point is only what we would expect, and yet in some of the missions, connected with other churches that thoroughly vicious practice prevails. Notwithstanding all that is said about union of churches it is well known that unblushing bribery exists in missions amongst the Indians, as elsewhere. That underhand and malicious detraction of sister institutions, should be employed in order to get children transferred as well as the payments of money, is one of the regrettable things upon which we do not care to dwell. The special value of industrial work; the best methods of distributing clothing, the dangers and advantages of allowing children to visit their homes,