

Missionary Link.

CANADA

In the interest of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

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"The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Is. lx. 3.

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MR. AND MRS. McLAURIN, with their second daughter were passengers by the *Polynesian*, and reached Montreal in safety on Monday the 27th ult., where they remained for a few days. After visiting friends in Thurso, Que., they will proceed to Woodstock, Ont. We welcome them home.

A Word of Exhortation.

It will be allowed that among the frivolous unthinking mass of women in the land, the taste for personal decoration and expensive attire is an increasingly besetting folly; and perhaps a little observation will render it equally evident that in this vain show the vast majority of professing Christian women are following with avidity "the multitude to do evil." The prevalence of this passion in the world need excite no surprise; for alas! "tis all the happiness they know." Personal adornment is the absorbing business of their life; to attract admiration, the grand end of their existence. But with Christian women the case is totally different. They have renounced the world as their portion, and engaged to yield themselves up to Christ as the only Sovereign of their hearts. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect of them the evidence of this mighty change in their economised personal expenditure and their augmented contributions to the cause of Him whom they profess to follow and serve.

Dr. Judson has presented a beautiful model for imitation, in his account of a Karen woman who presented herself to him for baptism. He says, "After the usual examination, I inquired whether she could give up her ornaments for Christ? It was an unexpected blow. I explained the spirit of the gospel. I appealed to her own consciousness of vanity. I read to her the Apostle's prohibition. She looked again and again at her handsome necklace, and then, with an air of modest decision that would adorn, beyond all outward ornaments, any of our Christian sisters, she took it off, saying, 'I love Christ more than this.' The news soon spread. The Christian women made little hesitation. A few others opposed; but the work went on." Dear reader, do you admire the self-devotion of this poor Karenese, but just translated into the light of the gospel from the thickness of heathen darkness? Do you rejoice in the successful influence of her example? Then, go thou and do likewise. Act at least, in the same spirit of self sacrifice.

The one point we wish to urge at this time is this,—that the prevailing conformity to the world in expensive and unsuitable apparel, robs the treasury of the Most High, and impedes the pro-

gress of the gospel. How often are the solicitations for a trifling increase of the accustomed contribution to a missionary or other religious institution repulsed by the most decided assurance that the utmost is already subscribed, while a slight glance at the dress of the subscriber reveals the presence of many superfluities that do not add to nature's charms, and have cost the wearer much more than the sum she refuses to give towards the salvation of the world.

We plead for no affected singularity of appearance; we desire no uniformity of costume; we proscrib no particular articles of raiment; our contention is that Christian women should evince by the neatness and simplicity of their dress that their minds soar far above these trifles and baubles, and that their hearts are supremely set on Christ and His glory. The evil deplored is, we conceive, confined to no class of Christians. It alike deforms the profession of the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the mistress and the servant; and we would affectionately urge each one to examine herself on this point in the strong light in which Scripture reveals her solemn obligations to the Redeemer, and her awful responsibilities to her perishing fellow-creatures. Think, dear friends, of the degraded females of India, and while you are informed that a few dollars annually may be the means of rescuing one such from the debasing and ruinous influences of idolatry, resolve that your extravagances of dress shall hereafter be dispensed with, that you may be enabled the more largely to aid in such a God-like work. What a harvest of souls might thus be gathered in from the mere clippings of superfluous and inconsistent adornments!

Wide Scope of the Church's Duty.

What is the Church? What is her main design? The Church of Christ is essentially missionary, is the one great Missionary Institution. Her very charter, "Teach all nations," contemplates universality. The great ransom was laid down for no mere section of any country, for no one nation or tribe more than for another. Evangelistic work is not something additional or extraneous to the ordinary sphere and obligation of Christians; no speciality pertaining to a detached corps of the militant host; some share in it is imperative upon all, and upon all alike.

The word *foreign* hardly belongs to the vocabulary of Christ's kingdom. His visible Church cannot be elsewhere than in the midst of a field, the circumference of which is the utmost limit of our race. Municipal and national lines are imperceptible in the domain of Christian duty.

This universality of scope needs to be kept in mind; the fact that Christ's Gospel and Kingdom are no local affair, no scheme of favouritism, but designed for all and free to all; that no realm and no policy are so uncompromising as evangelical Christianity, which is destined to supercede every other form of religion on earth.

Largest local success is conditioned upon a just apprehension of the broader claims. Nothing short of an appreciative grasp of the great end for which the Church is commissioned, will rouse an

individual, or a brotherhood, or a denomination, to appropriate efforts. Only in an atmosphere of such lofty aims will Christian character attain its noblest development. The Church that does most for others, near and afar off, will have most done for it by Him who is the Head of the Church, and whose heart yearns after all. Has there ever been a community that engaged nobly in benevolent endeavours for those outside its own limits, without itself experiencing most remunerative results in spiritual upbuilding? Is not the enterprise that springs from loyalty to Him who laid down His life for all, a proof of present benediction, and a pledge of more to come? Is it supposable that intelligent interest in remoter fields will be accompanied by neighbourhood inactivity? Does not the wider circle include the less? When, toward a century and three-quarters since, an overture asking for recruits for foreign work reached Halle, Professor Francke hesitated a long time, fearing that such a new demand might injure his Orphan House, but the result showed that the institution, so far from suffering harm, was helped, and to an extent beyond all the men and money sent abroad. When the rising missionary spirit led to a suggestion in the Nottingham Association of Baptist Ministers (1784), which secured the establishment of a monthly concert of prayer for extending Christ's Kingdom in the world, home revivals soon followed—an instance by no means solitary. Has it not been found everywhere true, that to lay out for the Lord, is to lay up for ourselves, collectively as well as personally?

It would be easy to furnish a sure recipe for Church decay. Adopt as a ruling maxim, "Charity begins at home;" make sure that it will also end at home. Keep an eye upon local conveniences and adornments; be careful to read little concerning urgent essential wants in the wide field of domestic and foreign destitution, be on the alert to hear criticisms and slurs upon missionaries and benevolent societies; with great apparent candour and appreciation of Christian equity, maintain that it is wrong to put anything into the Lord's treasury till personal debts and Church debts are discharged; and if all this should fail of arresting spiritual progress, and of making a shrivelled Church, it will be due to the very special and sovereign grace of God, "There is that with-holdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty."

When objection was raised on the floor of the Senate of Massachusetts (1812) to the Act of Incorporating the American Board, that it was designed to afford the means of exporting religion, whereas there was none to spare from among ourselves, a member made reply, that religion is a commodity of which the more we export the more we have remaining. The founding of the Basle Establishment for Educating Missionaries to the heathen, lead to the founding of Father Zeller's charitable and reformatory school at Beuggen in the neighbourhood; which, in turn, has become the mother of not less than forty like itself. Every prayer, every dollar, every labourer on behalf of the regions beyond is a hostage to Providence. Sometimes the being, always the well-being of a Church depends upon its continuing true to the original design of Christ's Church. Just so far as