

1889. Epiphany.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND IN CANADA.

EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1889.

REVEREND SIR: It is our desire that this address from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada be read, as a sermon or otherwise, in the hearing of every congregation in our dioceses on Sunday, January 6th, 1889, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

JOHN FREDERICTON, Metropolitan.

J. T. ONTARIO.

J. W. QUEBEC.

W. B. MONTREAL.

ARTHUR TORONTO.

E. ALGOMA.

MAURICE S. HURON.

CHARLES NIAGARA.

FREDERICK NOVA SCOTIA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Once more we, the bishops, clergy and laity, composing the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, appeal to the loyal sons and daughters of the Church on behalf of Foreign Missions. We make the appeal so that it will reach all at a time when the minds of Christian people are being directed towards the infant Saviour and his first manifestation to the Gentiles or people of foreign lands. We would lead your thoughts back, not only to the infancy of the great Head of the Church, but to the infancy of the Church itself.

The history of the early preachers of the Gospel, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, is but a missionary history throughout. Missionary journeys, missionary prayers and speeches, missionary sufferings and dangers, missionary hopes and triumphs are the leading features of that one only book which describes the rise and progress of the Church of Apostolic days. It was by "the journeyings often" that the great Apostle to the Gentiles preached the unsearchable riches of Christianity. And it was by a continuation of this primitive work that Christianity was planted in distant parts of the great Roman Empire and within the Imperial city itself, until, in fact, it became the established religion of the realm, and was sub-

sequently carried to those parts of the world where it is known and recognized to-day.

Active and aggressive work has proved the prolific source of true vitality in the Christian Church from her earliest days till now, and the absence of that work has always resulted in various forms of apathy and unbelief.

Therefore, the clear duty of the Church at the present hour is, what it has always been, the conversion of the heathen world to the peaceful and elevating principles of the everlasting Gospel. There can be no greater mistake made by any Church or congregation than to rest contented with meeting the claims of its own home work, however urgent those claims may be. Again and again this point must be pressed upon all, bishops, clergy and laity alike. Such is but a part only of the work of Christ's Church. It can never be that any Church or congregation is performing its whole duty by merely endeavoring to keep alive work which has already been established. It is by a spirit quite the reverse of this that Christianity is to flourish and grow. In fact the very maintenance of the Church depends upon its aggressive work against the powers of darkness and degradation. And where are those powers more clearly seen than in the vast realms of heathenism? Surely there is cause for the Church of Christ to feel bitter shame that, close upon the dawn of the twentieth century, there are in the world 856 millions of heathen, to say nothing of Mohammedans and Jews, while Christians of all shades and beliefs number but 390 millions!—390 millions as against 1,034 millions that are not even nominally Christian! We plead to-day for all these millions, dying without Christ, at the rate of 100,000 a day. We plead for their enlightenment, for their release from cruel and degrading customs, for the education of their children in the ways of civilization and the saving power of Christ and for the emancipation of their women from their cruel state of slavery.

The doors are now open everywhere for missionary labors. Resistance to the preaching of the Word to a great extent has ceased. It only remains for us "to go in and possess the land." The millions of India, under the sway of Christian England, are now ready to lend a willing ear to the words of the Gospel, and many cruel and unnatural customs are already things of the past. The darkest remnant of their heathenism is the unhappy condition of their women, and this is being gradually ameliorated through the efforts of