

AN URGENT CASE.

MR. EDITOR,—A very painful case of suffering on the part of an aged and disabled minister residing within the bounds of my congregation, came under my notice. As a matter of delicacy I withhold the name. He was for some years a missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and both himself and his wife lost their health. He has been for about five years suffering from throat disease, meanwhile consulting physicians, and I fear there is no hope of his ever again being able to preach. He is destitute, and has not money even to pay his rent or obtain necessities.

He should at once be put on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund of the Nova Scotia section of our Church. But even if that should be done, the paltry amount given by our western and stronger section of the Church, is utterly inadequate to support a family. After forty or more years' service, we are only promised \$220 a year, if there be funds to pay it.

This is a disgrace to our Church members possessing so much wealth among them, when we consider that our people expect their ministers to have the best education in the land, and which requires many years of preparation at great expense, and that then the expenses of their position render it impossible for the majority of them to lay by anything. And when they are laid aside debts are incurred which prey more painfully on them than on some other classes, because they have been rendered more keenly sensitive by their education and the public positions they have held. This is more humiliating when we know that the domestic servants of the Government, etc., are provided for by a good pension, amounting to one-half or more of their working salary.

We read that the popular singers of the day make from \$1,500 to \$4,000 per night; and yet, while the world pays thus liberally for amusement, professing Christians allow ministers of Christ to suffer from the want of common necessities.

Why do not our wealthy Church members put our Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund on a proper footing? Years ago the Aged and Infirm Fund Committee arranged that ministers laid aside should receive at the rate of \$10 per year of service, and this is less than the allowance in the Methodist Church. But want of funds has prevented even that being carried out. Meantime I will be happy to receive any contribution for my aged brother minister, and will acknowledge such in THE PRESBYTERIAN. Address,

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THE ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN MISSION.

The school which the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee (W. S.) established at Prince Albert in the North-West some years ago, chiefly for the benefit of the children of Indians, and in which several Indian children continue to receive education under the tuition of Miss Baker, has secured the sympathy and confidence of many of the residents of that district. During the greater part of the late Christmas week the thermometer stood 50° and 60° below zero. It can be readily inferred that such a state of things outside would have a very obvious effect on the attendance. Despite of the cold and of the little clothing which many had on them, the children and adults of the place crowded to the church on Christmas eve to witness and take part in the distribution of gifts from a Christmas tree. One corner of the church was filled with little papposes, who were perfectly amazed at the sight of such decorations and gifts. There were also recitations and the singing of several suitable pieces of music by the Sabbath school children, aided by several adults. During the same week the teacher received from the ladies of Prince Albert the present of a handsome cruet stand, costing \$20, and a purse of \$57, accompanied with an address in which she was thanked for the very efficient manner in which she had conducted the school. On New Year's day morning a deputation from the school girls presented her with a handsome dressing-case and a purse containing \$30. Such conduct on the part of the parents and children at Prince Albert is satisfactory evidence that Miss Baker's services are appreciated. Her reputation in Ontario is that of an earnest, affectionate, painstaking, and efficient teacher. Her labours have a powerful influence in moulding the principles and habits of the rising generation in that new and already very important part of our Dominion. By the bless-

ing of God upon those labours, a place not long since considered on the outskirts of civilization, may soon become "a garden of the Lord."

BRACEBRIDGE MANSE.

MR. EDITOR,—Some months ago an appeal was made through your columns on behalf of the above. I desire through the same medium to inform the friends who have kindly assisted in this undertaking what has been done in the matter. I may state first that plans were prepared, which proved to be more expensive in execution than the means of the Committee would allow. These were laid aside as impracticable. In the meantime they had the offer of the property immediately adjoining the church property, on which there is a house recently erected together with stable, etc. In order to give room sufficient they will require to add a wing to the house—which was part of the original plan—at a cost of between three and four hundred dollars. I have received and paid over to the Committee five hundred dollars. This sum together with local subscriptions pays for the property as it stands, leaving a balance of about fifty dollars on hand.

I take this opportunity of thanking those kind friends who by their contributions have made it possible for the Committee to proceed thus far, and at the same time would remind those other friends who promised their aid when something was being done here, that their contributions will be very acceptable at the present juncture, as the Committee wish to push the work that it may be ready for occupation by the first of May. Part of the balance will be raised here, but I fear not the whole of it. A. FINDLAY.

Bracebridge, February 7th, 1883.

GOSPEL WORK.

MESSRS. MOODY AND SANKEY IN DUBLIN.

The longing desire of many Christian hearts has been at last fulfilled. These honoured servants of God have returned to Dublin, after an absence of over eight years. None but God can tell how many who received spiritual life during their former mission, or who had that life revived, have followed them with their prayers in all their journeyings, read eagerly from week to week of their unceasing labours, and thank God for the marvellous success that accompanied their efforts both in Great Britain and America.

As they stepped on the platform of the Metropolitan Hall, Christian Union Buildings, for the first time at the four o'clock service on Sunday, 31st December, one could see how the vast audience of nearly 4,000 persons was moved. Many a heart heaved with emotion, many a tear unbidden started to the eye, and many a lip uttered the hearty "Thank God!" in grateful acknowledgment of the Divine goodness that had preserved our dear brethren, and brought them in safety, on their glorious mission to our shores again.

The meeting was largely interspersed with the "young converts" of the former mission—no longer young or inexperienced, weak or wavering, but, blessed be God, many of them ripe and matured won to Christ as well by Mr. Sankey's Gospel singing as by Mr. Moody's Gospel preaching. For instance, I met a young clergyman, full of zeal and earnestness, and having welcomed him to the meetings, his reply was, "I came forty miles to be present; I could not stay away; I owe my conversion to these men of God." Another, a brave officer of Her Majesty's army—now a brave soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ—said to me, "I want you to introduce me to Mr. Moody; he was the means of leading me to Christ."

Some may ask, "What reality or permanency is there in this movement?" Instead of giving details of the work in Dublin, during the past week, I shall, in this letter, try to give an outline of some of the most important visible and tangible results of their former visit. This will be the best answer to the question stated above.

(1) *The Splendid Buildings* in which Messrs. Moody and Sankey are now holding their mission, are the direct outcome of their visit in 1874. On that occasion, Mr. Moody said to a valued friend, whose absence from amongst us we so deeply regret, "Brother Smithson, you want in Dublin a Home for a Young Men's Christian Association on a broad platform, so as to embrace all the Churches; and you also want a large hall, where the members of all the Protestant Churches may meet from time to time for

mutual edification, for the promotion of Christian union, and for occasional evangelistic services."

Mr. Smithson was not slow to act on the suggestion. An influential committee was formed, and in due time the Christian Union Buildings were erected and furnished. We have good reason to thank God for the suggestion, and its prompt and successful carrying out. Since the Exhibition Palace has been sold for the purposes of the new Royal University, the Protestants of Dublin have absolutely no other place where they can meet in their thousands. Here, also, the Y. M. C. A. has its quarters, with excellent accommodation.

(2) *The Committee for holding United Services*, at present numbering over 100 members, was formed in view of Mr. Moody's first visit, and has continued its operations ever since. Its holds Evangelistic services from time to time, in which representatives of all the Churches—Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Society of Friends—take part: thus making it manifest before Roman Catholics and sceptics that we are "all one in Christ Jesus," and "members one of another."

(3) *The Annual Christian Convention*.—The first of these was held at the close of Mr. Moody's mission in 1874, when over 800 ministers of all denominations attended, besides many thousands of other Christians. These have been continued annually ever since, on the same lines, and have been greatly blessed and owned of God.

(4) *The Prison Gate Mission*.—This most useful and much-needed mission also sprang out of the labours of our dear brethren. Shortly after they left us, some good ladies, who were accustomed to meet for prayer in an upper room of the old Metropolitan Hall, conceived the idea of forming a mission to their poor sisters in prison on short sentences. The project has been steadily carried out, and for years past every morning (Sundays excepted) some ladies may be seen in the heat of summer, and in the snow and rain of winter, standing at the prison gates, waiting for these poor women to be discharged, in order that they may invite them to go with them to the Home, that they may do them good. About 100 women may be seen any day at the home, employed in washing, needlework, and such like useful industries.

(5) *The Sunday Morning Free Breakfast for the Poor* is another good fruit of that visit, and of Mr. Moody's earnest exhortations to Christians to prove in a practical way their love to Him who so loved them. Mr. Smithson took a deep interest in this good work. For the last two years an average of over 1,200 of the very poorest of our city have been receiving a good breakfast, followed by a Gospel address, every Sabbath morning.

(6) *Children's Services*.—The young are not overlooked. Their spiritual wants are most lovingly attended to by several members of the Y. M. C. A. Several hundred children are enrolled. They meet each Friday evening, and spend a pleasant hour singing Mr. Sankey's sweet hymns, and listening to the simple recital of the old, old story.

Who can say after reading the above list of charities and philanthropic works (and it is by no means exhausted) that Messrs. Moody and Sankey's Mission in Dublin, in 1874, was barren of results? Of the present Mission I will only now say that Mr. Moody's preaching has lost none of its power, Mr. Sankey's singing none of its sweetness and pathos, and the Protestants of Dublin none of their earnestness and enthusiasm. May our gracious Lord grant that the blessings flowing from this Mission may be even still more abundant.

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Dublin, January 5th.

WHERE the peace is that Christ gives, all the trouble and disgust of the world cannot disturb it. All outward distress to such a mind is but as the rattling of hail upon the tiles of him who sits within the house at a sumptuous banquet.—*Leighton*.

EVERY good act is charity. Giving water to the thirsty is charity. Removing stones and thorns from the road is charity. Putting a wanderer in the right way is charity. Smiling in your brother's face is charity. A man's true wealth is the good he does in the world. When he dies, mortals will ask what property he has left behind him; but angels will inquire, "What good deeds hast thou sent before thee?"