

regard to the constitution and ordinances of the church of Christ, and in demonstrating the all-sufficiency of christian willinghood to provide the means for evangelizing, not our own country only, but the world.

With ample room, and a fair field before us, and a noble people among whom to labour, all whose social and political tendencies are setting strongly in our favour, what is there to circumscribe our efforts, or our success, but the paucity of means at our disposal? Nor need the past discourage us; for when it is recollected that the first pastor of the oldest existing Congregational Church in Canada (Ontario and Quebec) is still vigorously at work in his original charge, and that in the course of a single generation we have increased, with scarcely any accessions by immigration, to 80 churches, numbering 4,000 members, there is certainly ground for everything but discouragement at the result.

But what about the future? We have heard much of late about "a bolder and more vigorous policy," and on several occasions offers have been made by wealthy and liberal gentlemen connected with the denomination, with a view to raising the income of the Missionary Society to something like the required proportions. Deputations annually visit the churches, and plead its claims upon their confidence and support. The duty of systematic storing and giving to the Lord's cause, according to income, has been set forth and urged upon them from time to time. But the income of the society is still far from what it ought to be, and might be, were we all to consult conscience and the Word of God in determining the amount of our contributions. We have unconsciously adopted a human, instead of a Divine standard of giving, so that this one puts his name down for the same as his neighbour, and that one repeats his subscription of last year, and thus the bolder and more vigorous policy aforesaid, finding no substantial backing in bolder and more vigorous *giving*, ends in vain words!

We need not wonder, then, that under these circumstances the Missionary Committee shrink from occupying new ground, and that we are virtually shut out from many important places, otherwise inviting, because they dare not make the necessary grant.

Now the practical question is—How long shall the hands of the Missionary Committee be tied in this manner? The letter of the Secretary-Treasurer, published in our last number, shows that even to retain our present staff of labourers *an advance of one-third upon the income of last year will be necessary*. Shall the increase be obtained? And if it be, shall we think we have done nobly, and be content to leave it at that? These questions will shortly be decided by the voice of the entire constituency, and every member of the society will be called on, at his own home, to record his vote upon it—yea, or nay! He that shall then say to the missionary collector, whom we shall call the "Returning Officer," "Put me down for the same as last year," will be understood to vote "NAY!" while he that