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

EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1898.

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 2nd, 1898, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

J. T. ONTARIO, *Metropolitan.*

W. B. MONTREAL.

CHARLES OTTAWA.

ARTHUR TORONTO.

F. NOVA SCOTIA.

H. T. FREDERICTON.

A. H. QUEBEC.

MAURICE S. HURON.

J. PHILIP NIAGARA.

GEORGE ALGOMA.

To the Reverend the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England in Canada:

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD,—During the late Conference at Lambeth no subject evoked such profound interest, and none was enforced by such repeated appeals, as the Church's obligations regarding Foreign Missions. Over and over again, it was affirmed in accents loud and strong that the work of making God's ways known upon earth, His saving health among all nations, stands in the first rank of all the duties which the Church has to fulfil. Christian Missions may seem especially incumbent upon us in this age of world-wide national intercourse, but in truth they have been the Church's primary and imperative duty in every age: first, because God would have all men know of His wondrous love, and that they are Christ's vast inheritance; secondly, because it has ever been the Divine method, to bless man by man, and to save the perishing through the instrumentality of those who are being saved.

In accordance with this unvarying plan, the Church's Head has issued the unmistakable command to his followers—"Preach the Gospel to every creature"—"Ye shall be witnesses unto Me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." In the presence of these supreme facts, all imagined or possible objections to

Missions can have no more weight than the small dust of the balance. Brethren, we dare not stay to reason with objectors: the Master's bidding is imperative, and the ages lengthen, while His work is not accomplished. Alas! there have been long and shameful epochs in the history of Christendom, when the Church seemed to have all but forgotten the last commandment of her Lord. The splendid enthusiasm and fervid passion for Missions which gave birth to the Winfrids and Ansgars and others of the middle ages in course of time died out. Only after the lapse of centuries were they revived in the heroism of the Jesuits, the Moravians, and the men of Halle. For two centuries after the Reformation British Christianity contributed scarce half a dozen names to the noble army of Christian Missionaries. But, blessed be God! there came upon our barrenness times of refreshing from His presence, and with them a growing realization of the great purpose for which the Church exists.

We speak of the present century as the era of modern Missions, and yet one-half of it had passed away before any general and enthusiastic assault was made upon the kingdom of darkness. In the opening years of the century, the entire Christian world, apart from the Church of Rome, contributed to Missions annually but three hundred thousand dollars, and it sent forth upon the great errand of mercy only two hundred and fifty persons, including catechists and teachers. Their work, too, was largely in European Colonies or in the islands of the sea. The teeming populations of India, China, Africa, and Japan were at that time almost inaccessible; but when once the wall of exclusion which surrounded these peoples was broken down, the missionary fervour seemed to be born of the opportunity. Devoted men and brave women pressed into the field in steadily increasing numbers, till now, in every section of Christendom, men are, year by year, caring more, praying more, working more, and giving more for the glorious cause, with the result that it is no unusual thing for the English Church Missionary Society alone to send forth fifty or more new laborers in a single year. It may perplex our doubting hearts, perhaps, to think how many a pioneering band has toiled for years with no apparent success.