

EPIPHANY APPEAL, A. D. 1890.

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, 5th, 1890, 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.

F. NOVA SCOTIA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Once more, in the light of an approaching Epiphany-tide, when all true hearts should be stirred with a sincere desire for the manifestation of Christ as a living Saviour to those who know Him not, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, of the Church of England in Canada, addresses you in love, reminding you of the duty which rests upon us as a branch of God's Church to take our part in carrying out the blessed words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Brethren, the danger of the day, even to Christian people, is that of spiritualizing and toning down the distinctive realism of divinely inspired commands. The foregoing words admit of no possible rendering save that which inculcates a plain, unmistakable duty. We, as a branch of God's Church are not to confine our efforts to extend the Gospel to our own dioceses within our Dominion; but in some practical and vital sense we are to "go forth" and we are to "preach the Gospel." This is our plain duty—a duty that cannot, and ought not to be avoided, inasmuch as it is one of the practical notes of our legitimacy as a branch of the Catholic and Apostolic Church.

There are three distinct ways in which the Church of England in Canada can more fully obey this divine command. One method has already been partially adopted, that of forwarding to the great Anglican missionary societies centered in England the offerings of the Canadian Church. The second method is now being inaugurated,

that of nominating to the great Anglican societies, those earnest children of the Canadian Church, who may freely offer themselves as missionaries for Christ in foreign lands, and through these societies to support such missionaries in the glorious work for which the Spirit of God has moved them to offer themselves.

The third method is that which the Canadian Church will adopt when it rises willingly to its God-ordained mission, and sends forth its own messengers to plant and build up in selected spots of the heathen world, the Kingdom of the everlasting Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first of these methods has been followed by the Church in this country during the last six years through the formation of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada. Whilst we cannot say that even according to this method the Church has done all that it might have done in generous and open-handed gifts, still we have every reason to take heart and courage as we notice that there is a steady growth in the number and amount of such gifts, testifying to the fact that the Church in this Province is realizing more, clearly its duty to the wide mission field in which the great Anglican Societies carry out their magnificent work. It is cheering to notice that whereas the Report of the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions for the first three years, stated that the sum of \$16,453.27 was offered for foreign missions, the Report recently laid before the Provincial Synod for the last three years shows the offerings at the advanced sum of \$35,740.98. A large portion of this amount has been forwarded directly to the great missionary societies of England, and we feel thankful that even in this small way the Church of this Province has done something towards acknowledging in a practical way the debt which she owes to these faithful Societies who sustained her in her first struggling years.

In this our annual appeal to you on behalf of the Church's work among the heathen we now solemnly intreat the members of the Church to realize more than ever they have done, the sacred duty of placing our efforts in connection with Foreign Missions on a more definite basis. We feel that the time has come when, through either the second or third method, the distinctive stamp of the Church in Canada should be placed on our efforts in the foreign field.