

Correspondence.

THE MISSION IN MANITOBA.

This mission, so happily begun, must not be left to discouragement for want of prompt and vigorous help. The Colonial Missionary Society grants for two or three years £100 per annum. A friend has sent through me to Winnipeg \$50, and Mr. Ewing reports that he has received from various quarters \$37. Now the first need is a District Committee to take charge of this matter until the next annual meeting of the Society. I believe the Home Secretary is corresponding on this subject. The second need is a strong appeal at the coming meetings throughout the country for greatly enlarged contributions that while existing spheres may be well occupied in Ontario and Quebec, Manitoba may share in our efforts. The third need is the occupancy by suitable brethren of the two places Rapid City and Pembina Mountain District. The Colonial Missionary Society asks if we cannot send men thither and for the moment sustain them. It cannot do more than the £100 at present, but with revived trade, etc., it hopes to afford further help in this important movement. The fourth requirement is some pecuniary aid to our friends at Winnipeg to erect a church building. This the society cannot render, hence the appeal comes home to individuals, at least we may hope it will do so.

I cannot undertake organization, nor to attend to details of the work. I hope the anticipated District Committee will appoint a good secretary. But I shall be happy to receive and to transmit money whenever such intervention is required. Mr. Ewing naturally feels anxious to have a building fund in progress as the congregation does not know when they may be called upon to give up the use of the City Hall.

H. WILKES.

Montreal, November 11th, 1879.

MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

BY REV. R. MACKEY, KINGSTON.

We have entered upon the season of the year when it is usual to make arrangements for missionary meetings throughout the country. There are important considerations that force themselves upon us in consequence. Among other questions the following have suggested themselves to the mind of the writer:

- 1st. Are we to lag behind?
- 2nd. Are we to stand still?
- 3rd. Or are we to initiate a more aggressive policy in the prosecution of our missionary enterprise?

It is generally conceded by brethren all over the country, that we are not making much progress as a denomination. If this is true, there must be some reason for it; we ought to try and find out the cause and address ourselves to a remedy.

We are not without influence, we are respected as a denomination, the Gospel is preached in our pulpits, and our theology and polity are sound because they are scriptural. The membership of our churches will bear favourable comparison with those around us, for spiritual living, and Christian and benevolent activity. Our prayer-meetings and Sunday schools are well attended, and many of our people are in comfortable, if not in affluent circumstances. Why is it then that so little progress has been made in the past? Have we not been living too much to ourselves, and within ourselves? We need broader views—not broad in the latitudinarian sense, but in the way of embracing all for Christ; we need wider sympathies, and a more abounding realization that the churches are one, notwithstanding the independency of our principles.

Are we not lacking in zeal and organization? This is the opinion of some, but thank God, we may possess both—the first by waiting upon God for it—“Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.” We may enjoy that power; our ministers and people may have it; then there will be a desire and earnest effort to extend

the cause of Christ everywhere. Have we made mistakes in the past? This is not meant as a reflection upon anyone, there are noble brethren among us who have borne the burthen and heat of the day and have done a grand work—God bless and spare them long, to render still their valuable assistance and direction in this great work.

Would we be aggressive? We must be evangelistic as well as evangelical, there is such a thing as *dead orthodoxy*. From such “good Lord deliver us.” What we want is life, more abundant life. Where there is life, there will be activity, power, and success. The surest and most powerful proof to the world that Jesus Christ lived on earth more than 1800 years ago is, that He lives on earth now, in His church, sustaining life, and constraining to deeds of mercy and words of grace, whereby trophies of redeeming love are won to Himself.

Many churches are languishing because they are not doing anything and are not trained to give for Christ. On one occasion the writer addressed a meeting in support of the claims of the Missionary Society. The missionary pastor presided. The astonishment produced upon hearing him apologize to his people on account of so much having been said about finances may well be imagined. This is not as it ought to be. The pastors should not fear to bring the claims of the cause of Christ before their people. It will do them good to give. No class of the community are better able to give than our farmers, and no class are less trained to give.

No one will question the need of this Home Mission work. “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few.” Did we say *Home Mission*? Some regard part of the field as *foreign*, and grudge even to Manitoba the one solitary brother who labours there. The sooner we acknowledge that Manitoba and the North-West Territory are part of Canada, the better for our churches, as well as the country itself. Were we prepared to send some of our very best men there even now, it would soon pay us back a thousand fold—if not in money, in interest and blessing. If the great object of our work is to testify the Gospel of the grace of God to every creature, there are thousands of them there, who need the Gospel, and are ready to receive it.

Think of it—in the State of Minnesota alone there are 135 churches, more than in all this Dominion, although it is little more than twenty years since it was formed. In a recent number of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT there appeared a stirring letter from the Superintendent, Rev. Mr. Cobb, by whom many of the churches have been formed. We need a man like him to take the oversight of this work. Could we secure the services of a man like Rev. Mr. Hall of Newfoundland, it would be a great blessing to the churches, and the missionary cause in particular. May we not pray that such an one may be given, and that all in authority, as well as the churches, may be disposed to look upon the matter with favour.

From the last number of the INDEPENDENT it will be seen that five lots in Rapid City have been deeded to trustees, on condition that a church be erected there within one year and a parsonage within two years. Who is going to help in this Christ-like work? Rapid City will, in the course of a few years, be a very important place, as it is the capital of the fertile Little Saskatchewan Valley and on the great highway to the west.

Nelsonville, in the Pembina Mountain district, is also ripe for occupation. “Whom shall I send and who will go for us?” May some one say, “Here am I, send me.”

The writer has also got the promise, for the denomination, of building lots for churches, etc., at Emerson and Morris.

Both of these places are pretty well supplied with churches for the present, and need not be occupied for some time to come.

The progress of the cause in Manitoba and the North-west will depend very much upon the success, or otherwise, of the church in Winnipeg. We look for success. The cause, under God, is in good hands. Mr. Ewing realizes the grave responsibility resting

upon him, and is surrounded with good and true men, who will not easily be put to flight.

They need our prayers, and will also need substantial assistance towards the erection of their church building. Meanwhile if they know we are praying for them, they will be encouraged in their work for the Master.

We ought to have a monthly concert of prayer for missions in connection with all our churches, when brief reports of the work in different parts of the field could be laid before the people. Quarterly collections might also be taken up. A large amount would thus be collected in small sums, that might have been otherwise lost to the cause. May our motto be “forward to greater victories for Christ and His cause.”

News of the Churches.

REV. JAMES HOWELL, Secretary of the Congregational Indian Missionary Society, has removed to Orangeville and desires correspondents to address him there.

BURFORD.—A donation was given by the friends of Rev. William Hay, at the residence of Mr. Henry Cox, on Tuesday, the 4th inst. At the close of the proceedings, the Treasurer, Mr. John Charles, presented to the pastor, as the result of the gathering, \$60.

TORONTO.—Rev. George Strassenburgh of New York State, formerly a student in our College, preached in the Western Church on Sunday morning last. Rev. T. W. Handford delivered his lecture, “John Milton,” to a large audience in Bond street church, on Thursday, 13th inst.

KINGSTON.—The annual collection for the Congregational College has been made by the First Church, and the amount remitted to the Treasurer. The amount sent was \$349.25, an increase on last year's subscription of \$15.47. The ladies' annual bazaar is to be held during the first week in December.

MONTREAL.—A sacred concert was held in Wesley Congregational Church, on Thursday, 6th inst. The choicest church music was selected, and its execution was such as to give it its highest and most effectual interpretation. The chorus of forty voices was composed of the choirs of this church and St. Andrew's. The audience was large, the church being crowded to the doors. After the concert a pleasant hour was spent at the refreshment tables in the lecture hall of the church.

WINNIPEG.—The following is an extract from a communication received from a young friend who recently visited the city of Winnipeg: “I went to the City Hall on Sunday morning and was warmly welcomed by two deacons, who spoke very highly of Mr. Ewing and hopefully of the future church they hoped to build. Mr. Ewing was absent, attending some meetings in the country, and a stranger preached. The congregation was small, but they were all so earnest; and it was indeed a house of prayer. It seemed more like a place of worship than many a fine church. I think they will succeed, for they have the right spirit.”

Religious News.

MR. C. H. SPURGEON has published fifteen hundred sermons.

THE “Indian Daily News” wants the Government to abolish the ecclesiastical establishment of that country.

THERE is a movement among the laity of the Church of England to secure lay representation in the Convocations, a reform much needed to make those bodies progressive or useful.

THE Metropolitan of Moscow lately preached on the infallibility of the Czar, a doctrine formerly held by the orthodox Greek Church but of late years suffered to fall into abeyance.

THE Old Catholic movement has crossed the Atlantic. The Rev. T. A. Vaudry, once a Roman Catholic priest, intends to labour in connection with it in New Orleans. That city will offer him a fine field.

IN New Hampshire there is one Congregational church to every 1,000 of the inhabitants. In fifty years there has been a gain of 46 churches. The Sunday school roll has 24,047 names, with an average attendance of 14,956.