

had shown more sympathy and help, many now might have been stronger which they are pronouncing a failure. With other parts of the letter we cannot at present deal, though worthy of consideration.

March 18, 1876.

J—.

AN APPEAL TO THE CONGREGATIONALISTS OF THE DOMINION.

SIR,—We were so much taken with the admirable letter of Mr. Stevenson, in the March number of the *CANADIAN INDEPENDENT*, on "Self Help," that we at once resolved to put the main idea—viz., our ability and willingness to help ourselves—in it to a practical test.

But as all of your readers may not be fully aware of the nature of the work we are doing in this Peninsula, and of the prospects before us, preparatory to putting the test above referred to, I will make a few remarks.

At the time of our organization in this city, a year ago, we were persuaded that there was ample room for us, and that it was the will of Heaven that just here, and nowhere else, was the place where we should labour for Christ. These impressions an interval of twelve months has only served to deepen.

We have gathered into a Sabbath school upwards of a hundred children, two-thirds of whom a year since spent their Sabbaths idly in their homes, or in running about the streets. We have brought between 200 and 300 adults, many of whom had not been in a church for years previously, to be regular attendants at Divine worship, and by God's blessing admitted a couple of score of the number into fellowship with us.

We believe that our mission in this city is by no means ended, and that we have much to do for the spiritual elevation of the masses round about us, and even for thousands throughout this much-neglected Niagara Peninsula. And the better to do this, we have concluded to undertake the erection of a house of worship, beautiful enough to attract the most æsthetic eye, and not too beautiful to offend the strictest puritan spirit; large enough for the requirements of a few years to come, and not too large to prevent the utilization of all the soul-

force of the attendants; comfortable enough for the most rigid demands of spiritual invalids, and yet not too comfortable to put a tax on wakefulness.

In this enterprise for the glory of God and the salvation of humanity, WE WANT YOU ALL TO HELP, and this is our proposed "test."

We would respectfully suggest that you carry it into effect on this wise: *On the 4th Sabbath in April, let each Congregational Church in the Dominion take up a special collection for us, and forward it by registered letter or bank cheque to Wm. Meek, Treasurer, Congregational Church, St. Catharines, Ontario.*

Now, brethren, in giving give liberally, and show to the world that we are "able and willing to help ourselves."

The weakest churches can give, say \$20. Ours is the youngest of the lot, and yet we would not think of remitting less than \$30 in response to a similar appeal; while the old, big churches can easily remit \$200 each.

Come now, give us good collections, and we in turn promise to reward you by bringing into the building 800 souls; and while these enjoy the fruits of your liberality, they will soon aid you in supporting all institutions dear to the Christian heart.

JAMES R. BLACK.

P. S. By the time this reaches you, we expect to be able to report \$5,000 secured in cash and good subscriptions; and by the time yours reach us, we expect this amount will be increased by at least \$2,000. And then, after pausing a moment, to sing "Coronation," we will go on and put up the Tabernacle.

J. R. B.

St. Catharines, March 20, 1876.

[Through the courtesy of the trustees, we present our readers with an excellent wood-cut of the proposed edifice, and hope all our churches will respond liberally to the above appeal.—Ed. C. I.]

TO THE LADIES

of the Congregational Churches of Canada, from the Ladies' Missionary Association of Zion Church, Montreal.

DEAR FRIENDS.—In the Providence of God an important and honourable work