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To work again. Midsummer generally shows a falling off in church work. In the country it is the busy time of the year. Early and late through the long days the toilers work, and the nights are all too short for rest; and outside of the Sabbath worship and in some places the weekly prayer meeting, the church machinery goes slow. In the cities, on the other hand, it is with many, the resting season. Some are away from the heat and dust taking a holiday by mountain, stream, or sea. But with the coming of autumn the labor in the country becomes less taxing. The evenings are long, and the various forms of church work are taken up with renewed energy, while the rested city dwellers return and take up, with other work that of the various church organizations.

Perhaps in any line of work except the fight with self and sin a little breathing time is good, but let it be only to get strength, for better, more earnest doing. And do not forget that in the varied schemes of work which our church is carrying on, the expenditure does not cease. Our Home missionaries are busy, for with many of them the summer is the working time in the mission field, while they return to college in winter. In our French work too, the missionaries and colporteurs are toiling on. In the Foreign Field, our brethren and sisters who are there fighting our battles with heathenism are bravely holding the fort. Let the coming autumn and winter see better work than our churches and societies have ever done before, for the field is widening, our hands find more to do.

Gain and Loss. In most of our older Provinces there are two classes of fields of work. First there are the new and growing settlements, where aid is given from the Home Mission Fund for a few years, then from the Augmentation Fund, until the result is a self supporting congregation able in its turn to aid others.

There is another class of field where the element of hope does not enter so largely, but where duty is no less clear, and that is where the reverse process is going on, where strong settlements and congregations are growing

weaker on account of emigration to other places. There are a few such settlements, not many, within the bounds of our church, but where they are, the duty of the strong to help the weak is no less binding than in the growing settlements.

Men and women are cared for in helpless infancy and growing childhood, and also in declining years and helpless age, by those who are stronger, and where such a thing as declining strength comes to a congregation it should receive all sympathy, and encouragement, and if need be, help.

And the fact that a settlement does not seem to be growing in strength or in ability to support ordinances, should be no reason for discouragement on the part of those who give help. Wherever there is weakness, it constitutes a claim upon strength; and affords an opportunity for the development of the self sacrificing and Christlike on the part of the stronger.

On our Inland Seas. One of the largest parishes, under the charge of one man, of which we have heard, extends from Montreal to Hamilton, some 360 miles, and contains some three thousand seamen, including boatmen bargemen, sailors of all kinds on our lakes and canals, between these points. For the last two years this long field has been under the charge of Mr. Potter, an Elder of our Church, who for seventeen years, worked among sailors in Halifax Nova Scotia, and now employed by the Upper Canada Tract Society in the field above mentioned.

In addition to the three thousand sailors there are the families of many of them living on the barges during the whole season of navigation, and having no other means of grace. Mr. Potter's work is almost wholly hand to hand personal dealing, passing from place to place, visiting the ships and barges from one end of his parish to the other.

In addition to this personal work he distributes Bibles and good literature, and in the following way. Ladies prepare bags for holding it, and in a bag is placed a Bible, some illustrated papers and magazines, tracts, &c., all kinds of wholesome as well as religious reading. The bag is hung in the fore-cabin or cabin and there Jack has good reading and a place to keep it. Some 250 bags of reading matter were in this way distributed last year.

In many homes there are illustrated magazines, monthly and weekly, such as the *Graphic*, *London Illustrated*, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, &c., which, once read, are thrown aside, but which would be of great service for this work. If any one has any such that they would be willing to give for the benefit of these sailor lads, let them send a card to that effect to Mr. Potter, U. C.