

We have within the bounds of our Synod probably two hundred stations, or more, where the Gospel should be preached to the poor, and where it is not now preached. Truly a great work lies before our Church, demanding earnest continuance in well doing, wisdom in devising, and liberality and unity in supporting wise measures for carrying out the command of our Lord

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### OUR ACADIAN MISSION.

BY REV. N. MACKAY, ST. JOHN, N. B.

It is generally felt and acknowledged that the Church ought to be engaged in some kind of missionary work. It is a conclusion drawn by many, both from the teachings of the Bible and the lessons of experience, that the missionary fervor of the Church will be in strict proportion to her spiritual vitality. The experience of our own Church tends daily to deepen our conviction of the truth of this principle.—The feeble streamlets of Christian effort which, by the blessing of God, have done something to irrigate and fertilize the barren fields of heathenism, have not lessened our diligence in the home field. The burden of our Foreign Missionary operations has not unfitted us for sustaining the weight of our local work. It needs no argument at this day to prove this to the readers of the *Record*.

Our mission work is of two kinds, contemplating on the one hand the evangelization of the heathen afar, and on the other seeking the welfare of those who dwell in darkness in our home field. The evangelization of our French Acadian fellow-countrymen is simply a part of our Home Mission work. It is but recently that we be thought us of our duty to them, and still more recently have we attempted anything in discharge of that duty. Considering the urgency and magnitude of the duty, we have yet attempted but little. We have, alas! accomplished even less than we attempted; and some speak, and many act as if we owed no duty in the matter, or as if they thought it useless and foolish to attempt to discharge it.

Apathy and timidity have, ere this, in-

jured many a good cause. We must endeavour to rescue this one from their chilling grasp. It is not necessary to give the readers of the *Record* a homily on the nature of christian duty. We need only remind them that we are answerable for results only so far as our own conduct may have affected them. If we are satisfied that we are in the path of duty, we ought not to allow our ardor to be damped by every obstacle or difficulty that may arise in our way. Much less ought we to be discouraged by the mere phantoms of difficulties which have no real existence.

No unexpected obstacle has yet presented itself in the operations of our Acadian Mission. The Head of the Church has dealt very kindly with us. We have been favored with the services of well qualified agents furnished to our hand by our co-workers in the Province of Quebec. God watched over our young colporteurs and gave them much favor among the people whose good they sought. Their efforts during the last two seasons were, to a large extent, exploratory, and the interesting fact has been abundantly ascertained that hundreds of French Acadians are accessible. Now that we have ascertained that they are debarred from the light of truth by their own false guides, and that many of them will willingly listen to the voice of our missionaries and receive the word of Life at their hands, is this a time for us to relax our efforts on their behalf? Our countrymen at our doors are perishing for lack of knowledge. Shall we travel half way round the world to aid in saving the swarthy children of Polynesia, and at the same time do little or nothing for those who languish in hopeless darkness by our side? Verily, no. We ought neither to relax our endeavours in the one direction nor forget our duty in the other.

Last year we expended \$463.80—not a very large sum—on operations among the French Acadians. The Synod recommended a special collection by all our congregations in aid of this mission. It was recommended also that at the same time special prayer should be offered for a blessing upon its operations. We are now not far from