

rose and stately chalice of lily with upspringing golden centre mingle their fragrance and beauty together. Let them wrap the bare, brown sod of our new-made graves in tenderest embrace; let them tell their sweet story in sick-room and hospital ward. Flowers for Easter! Yes, just as many as we ought to purchase; but do not let us expend our all upon them, for, "Shew I unto you a more excellent way."

How many auxiliaries noted and are prepared to carry out the request (not a mere suggestion, remember) of the Board of Managers in regard to holding an Easter thank-offering service? We hope every auxiliary within the bounds of our Society will endeavor to fulfil the wish of the Board in this particular. Could we but realize how much cause we have for thankfulness at this Easter season, surely our offerings would be as freely, as generously given as were the children of Israel's at the building of the tabernacle, when "they came every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation." So great was the offering, so generous-hearted the givers, that they had to be restrained from bringing further, by a proclamation from Moses. No need of such proclamations to-day. Do we not oftentimes by our selfishness bring disgrace upon the very cause we long to honor? Can we not, if need be, deny ourselves in manifold ways so as to bring an offering of thankfulness this Easter? If necessary, let there be fewer flowers everywhere, in home, and church, and cemetery. We love the flowers and the message they convey, but let us not purchase them at the expense of withholding from God's needy ones the story of redemptive grace, an experimental knowledge of which has freed us, while others, alas, who never heard the Gospel message, are bound in fetters more secure than iron, and languishing amid all the degradation of heathendom. Do not let one of us plead the stringency of the times, or the already doing without the many of life's almost positive necessities. "*Freely ye have received, freely give.*" Shall we not this Easter, as auxiliaries, as individuals, evidence our gratitude to the Father for the gift of His Son—whereby eternal life was purchased for us—by bringing one and all a thank-offering. Be it much or little it matters not, so long as we have the approval of our own conscience and the knowledge of the commendation of One who withheld not the meed of praise from the giver of "two mites." But do not let us content ourselves with mites if we can give dollars, even though the giving leads us over a harder "do-without road" than we have yet travelled.

MANY of us are more familiar with the mission work in foreign countries than right here in our own Dominion, yet none should appeal to our sympathies more strongly than the work among the French-Canadians, which forms one of our subjects of prayer for this month. Bound in error and dark superstition, the ignorant Roman Catholic devotee, in his

blind observance of forms and customs, can scarce find his counterpart outside of heathen lands. Said Rev. M. Amason, one of the first missionaries to Canada among the French-Canadians, "their indifference to the claims of saving religion and their unbelief amounts to practical heathenism." The French-Canadians occupy at present, portions of eastern Ontario, the Province of Quebec, and are scattered throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, and over a million of them are to be found to-day in the United States. In that admirable little leaflet recently published on the "Customs, Manners and Religion of the French-Canadians," the writer, Rev. T. Z. Le Febvre says: "Many and repeated have been the efforts to evangelize the French-Canadians, but, sad as it may be to own, these efforts so far have had but limited success. Ever on the alert, and constantly watching, the priest of Rome has so far well succeeded in shutting out the rays of light, no matter from what source they may have sprung. Latterly, however, the spirit of inquiry has gone abroad. The people have become restless. They want more light and freedom." Now, if ever, is our opportunity. How much need for gifts of means and prayers to follow up "this spirit of inquiry," which has surely come in answer to the prayer which has been forced from the heart of many a discouraged worker among them, "O Lord, arouse this people from their apathy and indifference!"

PAPAL lands—vast is the territory embraced in these words, and over which hangs the pall of Roman Catholicism. What of the outlook? some may ask. Is the prospect encouraging? On the one hand, we hear of fresh inroads made by the Church of Rome, while on the other, we learn of barriers, at one time deemed insurmountable, being removed. We believe the light is breaking through the gloom. The long night of superstition and priestcraft has glints and touches of grey, heralds of a near dawn, when the "Sun of Righteousness shall arise" over papal lands "with healing in his wings." The year just closed will yet be recorded in history as one of the marked eras for papacy in Europe. Just one year ago Pope Leo issued the "Encyclica," "which called on all Catholics to draw nearer the Pope, and on all dissenters to return to the Pope's obedience." It was a desperate effort of his to restore some of the lost power and ascendancy of the Romish Church, and was as great a failure as it merited. What of Spain, whose name is inseparably associated with Inquisition horrors? Last year an Anglican archbishop established a Protestant bishopric in the very heart of Spain—Madrid, its capital—from which and to which the Bible-carts come and go, and we read her people "clamor for the Word of God." France—land of the exiled Huguenots—with its gory history of a St. Bartholomew, now finds its Government encouraging and aiding McAIL stations "as the best possible policy to restrain and reform its people," and looks towards papacy with suspicion. Austria-Hungary, a supposedly stronghold of Roman Catholicism in Europe, has lately passed, in the Hungarian Parliament, laws