

Rev. H. Simcox	1 00
Sherbrooke, Q., collected by Mrs. Bowen	19 10
Silverwater, O., offertory	2 80
Nairn, O., offertory	3 53
Magog, Q., Brotherhood of St. Andrew	1 51
Miss Sarah Collier	2 00
North Bay, O., offertory	1 70
Callendar, O., offertory	2 30
Mr. Henry Lye, Walkerville, (O)	10 00
Mrs. Cline, Oakville, O.	5 00
Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Hamilton.	5 00
A Friend, Toronto.....	10 00
Mrs. Trigg, Cookshire, Q.....	5 00
R. S., Midford, O.	1 00

\$ 78 00

Amount acknowledged by Treasurer 5,294 79

Total \$5,372 79

Mission of Burk's Falls.

REV. C. H. BUCKLAND, INCUMBENT.

At the adjourned Vestry meeting of All Saints' Church, held on Monday evening April 10th, a very satisfactory report was presented by the wardens, Messrs. Joseph Hilliar and W. A. Kelsey, showing a total revenue for the year of \$452.64 and expenditure \$447.33. The liabilities were smaller than at any time in the history of the church, and are likely to be entirely wiped out at no distant date. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: People's warden, Mr. Joseph Hilliar; minister's warden, Mr. Edward Bazet; sidesmen, Messrs. Pringle, Laxton, Bradley and Fourné; vestry clerk, Mr. R. Briggs. Votes of thanks were tendered to the organist, Miss Ella Holbert, to Mrs. Pringle for her able assistance to the choir in the preparation of special Easter music, and to the Women's Auxiliary, which has raised nearly one hundred dollars during the past year towards the funds of the church. Since the advent of the new incumbent, Rev. C. H. Buckland, there has been a marked advance in all departments of church work, largely attributable to the energy of that gentleman, backed up by the very able assistance rendered him by Mrs. Buckland. The interior walls of the church have been artistically coloured, and the incandescent electric light has been introduced throughout the church building. The fences and gates of the church ground have been repaired, and a stone foundation built underneath the church. It is the intention during the coming summer to build the long delayed tower, and transfer to it the bell which is at present housed in a temporary and somewhat unsightly structure adjoining the church, and it is hoped that sufficient funds will be forthcoming to brick veneer the entire church, and, eventually to place a furnace in the basement. The Sunday-school, which the incumbent superintends personally, and in which he is assisted by Mrs. Buckland, is doing good work, as is also the Bible class held by Mr. Buckland on Sunday afternoons. The Woman's Auxiliary is in a flourishing condition and has done much to contribute to the success of the temporal affairs of the church for the past year. Since

the advent of the new incumbent the congregation have largely increased, and have averaged in the morning forty, and in the evening sixty-seven, while the weekly Wednesday evening service, as well as the Lenten week-day services, have been very well attended. The choir, under the efficient instruction of Mrs. I. H. Pringle, has considerably improved, and on Easter Sunday evening rendered a full choral service, which was much appreciated by the large congregation. On the whole the congregation is encouraged to hope that ere long they may regain the position they once held, namely, that of being the largest and most influential religious body in Burk's Falls.

EDWARD BAZETT.

Powassan Mission

REV. I. A. COBB, INCUMBENT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR, Pardon me for trespassing on your valuable paper, THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS, to report the work of the Powassan Woman's Auxiliary, our old association, the Guild, being changed to the present one on the 4th day of January, 1899, with sixteen members, Mrs. Cobb being elected President. We think the Auxiliary will be more beneficial on the whole to our loved Church. Our first business was to pass a resolution that all moneys, work and other things will be specially devoted to a fund for the erection of a parsonage convenient to the church, where a lot has been secured. Since organization we have held a concert and a bazaar, and, with a little money gathered together by the old Guild, we have now on or about \$100 towards the parsonage. At our last meeting our President read a very instructive and zealous address to us, and called our attention to the report to be made out for the Diocesan meeting and the election of a delegate to the same. Mrs. Cobb was elected, Mrs. J. A. Porter as substitute in case Mrs. Cobb could not attend. Our fee was fixed at 25c., and the cards of membership delivered.

Yours very truly,

JULIA RICHARDSON,
Secretary.

The Fourth "R."

II.

Continuing briefly our notice of Mr. Laurence Baldwin's article in the *Canada Educational Monthly* in behalf of voluntary schools in affiliation with a national school system—forming an integral portion of such system—we are aware of the fact that the scheme is only feasible in cities and towns of comparatively large populations. There it would assuredly succeed if given a fair trial—a trial in which the influences of religious prejudices and intolerance are entirely absent. From a Church standpoint we would urge such a trial, believing that the late

Archbishop of Canterbury's advice concerning missions—"strengthen your centres"—may wisely and with profit be applied, not only to the missions of the Church, but also to the recovery of daily religious instruction in common schools. Would not the competition and honest rivalry of the several affiliated parts of the whole system do much to improve the education of our children in Ontario? This principle Mr. Baldwin finds admitted in connection with Toronto University. We believe the greatest obstacle to the proposal is to be found in the common though mistaken view taken by the ordinary ratepayer, that the State would be paying for the religious training of children, which it is said it should not do. It would be imparting religious instruction peculiar to some one or other of the religious bodies in the province. That this is a mistaken idea cannot be over emphasized. It cannot be repeated too often that the State will only pay for the elementary secular instruction in all schools under its own inspection, given by teachers possessing the requisite provincial certificate of qualification, and using text books approved of and authorized by the Educational Department. The cost of any other instruction in secular subjects, or in the doctrines of the Christian faith held and professed by the parents or guardians of pupils, will be maintained, not by the State, but by the voluntary contributions of the supporters of such schools. This needs earnest, constant reiteration.

But, while for the centres of population a workable plan is provided, there is not yet, as far as we know, any scheme thought out and proposed by which the children in rural sections can receive day by day the religious instruction which many parents desire. It is futile to tell us that the Sunday School supplies the deficiency, though its influence for good cannot be gainsaid. In some places there are no Sunday Schools. It may be noted that many people who at once recognize the value of properly qualified teachers and suitable books for the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic, lose sight both of the necessity of the fourth "R," as well as of the value of any qualifications in the teachers. And it is religious instruction we wish to see in rural as well as in urban schools. How we can obtain the desired object we acknowledge to be a rather difficult problem. Nevertheless, it can be solved, if we will but face the difficulties and obstacles in a fair and determined way. As a beginning the Bible might be among the authorized text books, to be possessed by the pupil as his "reader" is, read in the school by all the pupils, and not by the teacher only. It would be but a first step, but it would be a step in the right direction thus to provide every boy and girl with a copy of the Bible, and to foster its use. There can surely be no objection raised by any reasonable man to such a step. This is not intended to supersede religious instruction by competent and