

Home Missions to the Front!

THE MAY OFFERING.

Help the American Christian Missionary Society.

OUR PRIVILEGE, DUTY AND INTEREST.

The brotherhood of Disciples of Christ will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its missionary work, at Cincinnati, Ohio, in October, 1899.

The American Christian Missionary Society was organized in 1849. Alexander Campbell was its first President and remained President until his death in 1866.

This mother Missionary Society has been a cherishing mother to all co-operative work among our people. It is the mother of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions; the Foreign Christian Missionary Society; the Board of Church Extension; the Board of Negro Education and Evangelization and the Board of Ministerial Relief. She has denied herself for the benefit of these children.

She has organized 2,186 churches; her missionaries have baptized over 87,000 penitent believers into Christ. With this splendid record, she comes before the brotherhood and pleads from them help and support. We are aiding, and have been for years, the church at Halifax; we have aided and hope to aid, the church at Pictou, and we are appealed to to aid the church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Whether we can do this or not depends upon the response of the Jubilee offering. "By their fruits ye shall know them," said the Saviour. The Board of Home Missions asks to be judged by its fruits and is confident of an enlarged and increased support.

BENJ. L. SMITH,

Y. M. C. A. Bd'g, Cincinnati, O. Cor. Sec'y.

HELP THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

R. W. STEVENSON.

The American Christian Missionary Society is composed of brethren in Christ who have banded themselves together for the purpose of effectually carrying on the work of the gospel at home. An organization having for its existence such an object should receive the sympathy and support of the churches everywhere. This society is conducted by good business men, and a satisfactory work not being done, the society would long ago have disbanded. But this society has been in existence for fifty years—this is the Jubilee

year—and the work done has been great. Weak churches have been greatly strengthened; those deeply involved in debt because of hard times have been rescued; new churches have been started and multitudes have been won to Christ by the faithful evangelists laboring under the auspices or direction of the Home Missionary Society.

The provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island are fruitful fields. From these provinces stalwart sons and daughters can be rallied to the cross of Christ and enlisted into the services of the Lord. Our churches are few and weak. There are many cities, towns, villages and splendid country regions where open doors can be entered by the men with no creed but the New Testament, and without sectarian devices to induce men to join the church. I believe the time is coming when these provinces will make a better showing than they do at present. When everywhere shall be seen a church set for the advocacy of a united church, that the prayer of Christ may be answered, the work of the gospel greatly strengthened, each mean sectarian partition wall cast down and demolished and Christian brothers all. The churches on P. E. Island, so far as I know, have never yet done anything for the American Christian Missionary Society. The brethren in the United States are accustomed to take five or six important collections every year, besides the money requisite for the local work. These are for the Foreign Society, the American General Home Missionary Society, church extension, ministerial aid, the state societies. Each state has its own society. These are vital interests, without which the work done could not possibly have been accomplished. In the Maritime Provinces we do not realize the importance of these several organizations as we should. We have not been in touch with the great body of our brotherhood. We have been content to work along by ourselves. We have not been as aggressive as we should; we have been content to allow things to go as they might. We have not pressed the service. The brethren have not learned to give as the Lord prospered them. The contributions are not any larger in a good year than in a bad. Some have been accustomed to give so much a year, and no more. No

matter how great the demands—so much and no more. The American Christian Missionary Society should receive a contribution from our Island churches in this the Jubilee year. We shall greatly encourage them, and they may take us by the hand some time and give us a lift when greatly needed. The strong should help the weak. But we should struggle to grow and help ourselves. This society has helped churches in Nova Scotia—Halifax and Pictou. They could not be sustained without this help. Let us try the brethren for a collection during May for the American Christian Home Missionary Society. Of this society I have the honor of being a life director by the goodness of the Church of Christ in Syracuse, New York.

THE MAY OFFERING.

H. MURRAY.

"What is it for?" It is for the American Home Mission Board. "Why send our money there; have we not enough to do for our own home mission work without sending our money to them?" That is just what we thought you would say, and this is the reason we are having this consensus on the subject, that we may see the import and the importance of the offering and be ready to do our part.

No doubt we all understand that the American Board is helping us support the work of missions in our provinces, and without which we would not be able to sustain our work in Halifax and St. John, and in other points. All they ask from us is one offering a year from each church. It is as plain as day that much, everywhere, depends upon this "May Offering." If it is worthy the cause we love and commensurate to our ability, it will show that we appreciate their gifts and desire their co-operation. But if we fail to make a good, worthy, commendable offering, the conclusion must be that we have neither appreciation of their help nor inclination to help ourselves. Our desire that we may have a good offering from all our provincial churches is up to a white heat of anxiety. We can see, in the co-operation of our American brethren, our opportunity for advancing the cause of Christ in our provinces. It has been ebb tide with us so long, by the exodus of our workers and preachers, that unless we can have a flood tide our little bark will be high and dry.

The present hour is fraught with much greater interest to the church than ever before. Whichever way we look we can see the revolutionary spirit of unrest and discontent. The moral sense of the times and the desires and aspirations of the very best minds are anxious for something better than sectarian juggernaut that is crushing the life out of Christianity. The investigating spirit that made the Bereans so noble is actuating the hearts of the people all over our land. "Come over and help us" is not only the Macedonian cry, but the cry of hosts of places. This makes our responsibilities vastly greater