

HOME MISSION FUND.

The Executive of the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee met in Toronto on Tuesday last, all members being present. The claims for services rendered during the past half year were carefully gone over and ordered to be paid. After the payment of these, the Fund is in debt to the extent of nearly \$10,000. This was a cause of great anxiety. As reported to last General Assembly, the estimated expenditure of the committee this year was \$25,000 in excess of the normal revenue last year. It was hoped that one hundred individuals or congregations would contribute especially, and above their regular giving, to support each a missionary in a specific field. In this, the committee have been disappointed. It is still hoped, however, that many congregations, as well as private individuals who have the ability, will intimate their readiness to undertake the support of a special missionary. It is also hoped that the Superintendents and teachers of all our Sabbath Schools will bring the claims of the Home Mission work before their scholars, with a view to very generous contributions before the end of the year. The number of scholars reported, is 187,691. With a little systematic effort upon the part of Superintendents and teachers, it is believed that an average contribution of ten cents can be got from the children upon behalf of Home Missions. In many schools this average will be greatly exceeded, and with efficient, systematic efforts, it is doubtful if there is a single Sabbath School in any part of the church where an average of ten cents per pupil and teacher could not be got upon behalf of this important scheme.

An appeal was issued two months ago to the student and other missionaries for generous help upon behalf of the Fund. It is much to be regretted that many of these assumed the responsibility of taking no step to secure a contribution for the Fund. No one familiar with our church can for a moment doubt the ability of our people to contribute all that is desired for the furtherance of our Home Mission work. With the hearty co-operation of ministers and people, the committee should not be embarrassed for lack of funds to carry on their work.

Last year a special appeal in the closing days of the year, was most generously responded to. This cannot be repeated every year. The Fund, at the present time, is much more heavily in debt than at the corresponding period last year. The contributions from Britain which, owing to Dr. Robertson's visit, were so large last year, have practically ceased, and the committee are dependent almost entirely upon the liberality of our own people for the maintenance of the work. It will be impossible for them to encourage Presbyteries to look out new openings and to expand the work, unless the present heavy indebtedness is greatly reduced, within the next few weeks.

The number of missionaries offering their services for the winter months, was much greater than was anticipated a few weeks ago. There are, however, still a number of fields unsupplied, and it is hoped that some men who have not yet offered their services, will do so, so that every important point may be occupied this winter.

Principal Grant is now making steady progress toward convalescence. It will be some time, however, before he can again resume work. Indeed, if his life is to be spared to the church and country his labours in the future should be greatly lightened.

Literary Notes.

No more inspiring writers on foreign missions can be found than those who contribute to *The Missionary Review of the World*. The October number is overflowing with scholarly and up to date articles by missionary experts at home and abroad. Published monthly by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York. \$2.50 a year.

Geoffrey Strong, by Laura E. Richards. This little story is distinguished by the charm which is one of Mrs. Richards' chief attractions, whether she writes for children or for grown up people. The story here is slight, but it is bright and vivacious and not too long. The dainty binding and the four pretty illustrations add much to the value of the book. Dana Estes and Company, Boston.

It is now a year since the first number of *The Ladies' Magazine* was published, and the verdict of all must be that the magazine is proving a success. The October number is bright, interesting, and above all Canadian. A new feature is *Our Departure Club*, which is to take the place of a serial story. The Month's Weddings is possibly the most interesting department to a great many people. Here are given portraits of the brides and bridegrooms of the month, together with short accounts of the weddings. Fashions and household topics receive each month a proper share of attention, and altogether the magazine should prove both helpful and interesting to all the women of Canada. The Hugh C. MacLean Company, Toronto.

The September number of "*The Studio*" opens with an excellent article on "Robert Weir Allan and His Work," by Mrs. Arthur Bell. The several illustrations show different phases of this artist's work. The exhibition of Arts and Crafts at the Glasgow International Exhibition is discussed at some length, illustrations being given of a great variety of work, such as designs for caskets, curtains, side-board cloths, cushions, bed covers, tapestry, buckles and book-binding. A quaintly illustrated article is that on "Some Thoughts on the Art of Gordon Craig, with particular reference to "Stage Craft," by Haldane MacFall. The National Competition, 1901, is considered by Esther Wood, a large number of the designs being shown. *Studio-Talk* is perhaps even more interesting and exhaustive than usual. The *Studio*, London, England.

"English Water Colour" is the title of a new publication about to be issued from the offices of "*The Studio*." The work will be completed in eight monthly parts, and each part will contain eight large facsimile reproductions in colours from paintings by the most prominent artists of the English school, from the time of Sandby (1725—1809) down to the present day. In addition to a specially selected series of drawings by living water colourists the following deceased artists will be represented by characteristic examples of their work:—Paul Sandby, Thos. Girtin, Thomas Hearne, John Cozens, J.S. Cotman, J. Constable, J. M. W. Turner, William Hunt, T. Rowlandson, David Cox, Peter Dewint, Clarkson Stanfield, R. P. Bonington, G. Barrett, J. D. Harding, S. Prout, W. Collins, Copley Fielding, Birket Foster, and others. The letterpress will be from the pen of Mr. Frederick Wedmore.

The September number of *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* opens with an article on "Pianists of the Past." Then come "With the Pilchard Fleet," "Cricket Records," and "The State of Ireland." There is also a short story as well as several chapters of the serial, "The Conquest of Charlotte." In "Musings without Method" Lord Roseberry is discussed as the man who "likes the palm without the dust." The Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

A new story of the time of Christ, entitled *The Crown of Thorns*, by Dr. Paul Carus, has just been issued by The Open Court Publishing Co., of Chicago. The tale is a brief one, and endeavors to present in direct and palpable form the historical and ethical conditions of the origin of Christianity. It is fiction of the character of legend, utilizing materials preserved in both the canonical scriptures and the Apocryphal traditions, but giving preference to the former. The book is elegantly illustrated by Mr. Eduard Biedermann. (Pages, 73, Price, 75 cents net.)

The royal party visited Queen's college on Tuesday, and received a hearty welcome. Out of a hospital window looked Rev. Principal Grant, convalescing from a serious illness. At the new arts building a huge platform held dignitaries of Church, judicial and civil life. Sir Sandford Fleming, K.C.M.G. chancellor of the university for over 25 years, received the Duke and Duchess. On the Duke the degree of LL. D. was conferred, Vice-Principal Watson making the presentation address. The newly appointed honorary graduate made a felicitous reply at becoming a member of a university chartered by his illustrious grandmother. Then both the Duke and Duchess opened the second volume of the *Domesday* book with their signatures, and H. R. H. the Duke well and truly laid the corner stone of the new building donated to the college by the citizens of Kingston. Thereafter the Duke and Duchess called on Principal Grant at the hospital, and after hearty greetings expressed the hope that he would soon recover his health and strength. He was then decorated with the order of the Companion of St. Michael and St. George (C. M. G.)

MORE MISSIONARIES NEEDED.

DEAR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN: There are over twenty missions still unsupplied west of Lake Superior, after every available missionary has been appointed. These are student or catechist missions. Had we means, some of the ordained men applying for appointments might have been placed in charge. But they were men with families, requiring manes, and the full ordained missionary's salary, if the cold was to be kept out, and the pot kept boiling within. Could not 12 or 15 young men from Ontario come to our help, and half a dozen from the Maritime Provinces? There has been some waiting, and more talking, about the young men taken over from Britain last summer; but our present unsatisfactory state would be considerably aggravated, were the 30 fields they are supplying added to our present vacancies. If help from abroad is to be dispensed with, we must get larger help from home. Who will volunteer to help us now, and to cheer the hearts of settlers and advance the work of the Church and the cause of religion?

J. ROBERTSON.