

siderably short of an average. In making up the accounts, I find a falling off; and I fear that this has become somewhat chronic. We are descending in the scale instead of ascending.

My purpose in writing thus, is to press affectionately and earnestly two points:—

1. That the approaching Missionary contributions should be considerably larger than they have ever been. If they who have been accustomed to give small sums, will double, or in some instances quadruple them, and if those who have been liberal heretofore, will rather increase, we shall have joyous reports to make at Brantford next June. Will our friends in the rural districts, the proprietors of farms, kindly bear the whisper that the standard of gifts is not quite what it ought to be. I know that so much money does not pass through their hands, as in the case of some other classes, but they can afford to give a larger share of it to the Lord, than some others can, who have with their money to purchase all their food, to pay for rent and fire-wood, and to pay for other things, for which a farmer does not use money at all. I believe that we Congregationalists, do quite as well as other people, but that is not enough: let us be faithful as the Lord's stewards who must give account.

2. My intercourse with the Committee in London last year, and my correspondence with them, convinces me that the present and past course cannot be much longer continued; and I know it to be the sober judgment of a large number of our thoughtful laymen in Canada, that *it ought not to be continued*. Hence I most affectionately urge the churches and congregations, which have been long on the list, for sums which have hardly diminished at all, to take up the matter heartily and earnestly early this winter, so as to be prepared to ask less in the application they will send to the Home Secretary in May. Perhaps a thorough, prayerful, vigorous, self-denying effort, would enable some of them to walk alone. How happy would they be to do so! The result would be worth a struggle. Where this is impracticable, let a beginning be made in the descending scale of dependence, by some steps upward in the scale of giving. Our Congregationalism is elastic as to modes of procedure. We are not bound to any special order of financial officers. If deacons, however excellent, are not so fit to manage this matter, as younger, business, active men, in such cases raise a committee of such, and put the matter into their hands. If men are scarce, let the women work in this department: they are capital collectors. Let the hearers and adherents have the opportunity, of which they will often be glad, to minister with the church to the wants of the man who teaches them all "in the Word." There is needed thorough system and promptitude; your slipshod course always fails, and ought to do so. May I urge that this matter be taken up early in the winter? It will do the congregations good to meet and talk about it, and then to plan and act. A true hearty movement, baptized from on High, would gladden us all when we meet next June, and would render our relations with a Society, which has long done us good service, far more satisfactory. Who will arise in each congregation and work this important matter?

The Provisional Board appointed at the last annual meeting of the subscribers to the Congregational College of British North America, to make preparation for the removal of the College to Montreal next summer, and to which was referred certain proposed by-laws &c., for consideration, held their second meeting last week in this city. The attendance was good, and a considerable amount of work was done. The references to them were carefully