

*Ireland for Irishmen, Americans for America, and Canadians for Canada.* From what I know of our churches, it is our home-trained men who have done the best and most successful work, and this is not a compliment to either superior ability or superior training.—It is simply the application of this general principle.

And even if this principle did not apply in our case, there is another reason why we should seek to have more of our men trained at home. They are our only available men. Our fields offer so few attractions to those of other countries and even to those who go from us to be trained in other countries, that our ranks are depleted, rather than augmented.

I had not little to do in preparing two young men and they did with me their first two years' work. They went over to Oberlin to finish. They finished by remaining there, one of them now principal of a flourishing religious educational institute—the other a pastor settled in Missouri. It is a glorious country—may God's smile ever be on it and make it more glorious. We look to them with their more than 4,000 churches—and these being increased year by year—much as the lad looks to his big brother, the embodiment of strength and manhood, or rather as to an elder sister in the blush and beauty of early womanhood preparing for the eventful day. For the motto of our brethren there is "The United States for Christ" to which we most heartily say Amen and add—"and Canada too." Oh yes we are proud of our brethren there, despite all the "fish stories" that may be to the contrary. When the border popgun newspapers have exhausted their ammunition, and the few blusterers on each side have subsided, the solid christian principle in both great countries will arise and settle the question as in the sight of God. For why should there be any strife betwixt, are we not brethren? The recommendation of our missionary superintendent, and the action thereon by the union of Ontario and Quebec, commended itself to me as wise in seeking closer relationship with the American churches in missionary work, both home and foreign. I sincerely trust that such will be brought to pass. They will be a strength to us, and I trust we shall not be a weakness to them.

But this will in no wise lessen our obligation to sustain, and sustain in a manner far beyond anything we hitherto have done our own college. Even if we formed one of the states of the union it would be as incumbent upon us. Every state or country with 5,000,000 of people ought to be supplied with its own institutions, both literary and theological.

To this, under Christ, we are looking for. Men we urgently need. We could employ five or six at once. True, it may be asked, where are the means to come

from? I am aware that that is a serious question.—But I am also fully convinced that given the fields, as we have them, and the men as we wish them, the pecuniary support would soon be forthcoming.

Our faith has been shamefully small in this as well as other respects. I know that deficits are not the most inspiring things with which to deal; but here and there a small deficit has frightened us away from fields where we were, and are sorely needed. Had we more faith to go in and possess the land the Master would honor that faith even to the replenishing of our treasury. Is not the gold of the mine, the pearls of ocean, and the cattle upon the hills all His? The work is His. We are but the instruments in His hand. He who gives the command "go" will see to it that it is possible for us to obey.

A review of the history of our churches in these provinces is not the most comforting, except as we draw comfort and hope from the recital of patient toil and faithful endeavor. Where we are few and weak we ought to have been many and strong. Places our fathers, by patient toil and prayer, won, are without our name or principles; property obtained by work and sacrifice is in the hands of others, who, while they have and preach the life-giving gospel yet, to too great an extent, allow it to be hidden behind the glorification of system, or shadowed by the undue prominence given ordinances that in themselves are nothing. But I believe a brighter day is dawning, a new era is begun in the history of our churches in these provinces. A step in the right direction was taken when we met two years ago in Economy and consummated the union of our missionary operations with our brethren of Ontario and Quebec, not so much because we have received some four or five hundred dollars more than we contributed to the treasury as from the stimulation of sympathy. The new feature introduced, that of missionary superintendent, meets a long felt want, that is, so far as one man can do the work of three. Certain it is that we need one for the maritime provinces. Where is the man or men who will put into the hands of the missionary committee a sufficient sum to put another Mr. Hall—if one can be found—in the field, one that will supply vacant churches, obtain for them pastors, seek out new fields of operation, visit the churches which have pastors, and with words of cheer and counsel stir them up to more earnest and concentrated effort? No investment would be more wise and timely than such a permanent fund yielding sufficient for such a work.

Another feature of hope I see in the spirit of co-operation manifesting among our churches. A misconception of the true genius of Congregationalism has too often produced an ultra-independency that has been