

Era"—a book that all should read—shows a most lamentable condition of affairs in this regard. The American Board has been helping to preach the gospel in these provinces, and we are anxious to do more. They ask our churches to take up a collection for the general work. Large sums are not requested; but something from each church is. If the collection this year should prove to be as large as is expected, we shall receive much more than we give. As it is now, three dollars are sent to us for every one we send them. The churches are requested to attend to this matter on the first Lord's day in May. Send contributions to J. H. Hardin, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Christians often have strange ideas, and in giving expression to them show a weakness in their Christian character.

GOOD NOT A FEW SUCH IDEAS HAVE TO  
ADDITIONS. DO WITH WHAT WE MAY CALL THE  
comparative value of souls.

A meeting was once held, during which many children accepted the Saviour, and the remark was made: "It was a poor meeting because they did not reach any but a lot of children"—as though the soul of a child was not as valuable in the sight of God as the soul of a grown person. If these children had waited till they were sixty years of age, they would be regarded as good additions, notwithstanding they would have so much less time to work for the Lord. At another meeting only one accepted his Saviour; but he was a "poor addition" because, forsooth, he had spent many years in serving the Evil One, and he won for himself an evil name. But surely God valued his soul, and rejoiced to see him buried with Christ that he might rise with him and walk in newness of life. Boys and girls, young men and young women, who have to work hard to earn their daily bread, turn to the Lord, but some professing Christians say, "They are poor additions; if some rich merchants or farmers could be reached the results would be worth something." Those who hold ideas like these seem to have missed an important truth, viz: that the value of souls cannot be computed in money, and that beautiful garments are not essential to beauty of character. Every one who is truly grafted into Christ is a good addition in God's sight, and should be in ours. And he who spends his time in seeking only the great of earth, must have chosen a different example from Him who came to seek and save the lost, and who preached the gospel to the poor. Good additions are not alone those who can do great good; but those as well who can be greatly benefitted. Not only those who are now strong; but those who may become strong.

I live to greet that season,  
By gifted men foretold,  
When men shall live by reason,  
And not alone by gold.  
When men shall be united,  
And every wrong thing righted  
This whole world shall be lighted  
As Eden was of old.



#### THE MAY OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS.

The above blackboard lesson can be easily understood by every reader of this paper. The following from the annual report presented to the convention at Richmond will be of interest, and should show all of our friends the importance of vigorous action:— "We are still about \$5,500 in debt. We have Life Directorship and Life Membership pledges due and unpaid, amounting to about \$4,325 besides a considerable sum of other pledges. We confidently expected our receipts to equal last year's figures. Had such been the case we should have been able to report the society almost, if not quite, free from debt. This has been our desire since 1892, when the fiscal year was begun with about \$4,000 indebtedness. If this indebtedness had been incurred by extravagance or by any wild or foolish outlays, we would be ashamed to ask the churches for it. But such is not the case. It has been no fault of the Missionary Society, but it has come in spite of the most conservative policy and the wisest foresight of which human knowledge is capable. Every Missionary Society, so far as we know, has met with a similar experience during the last two years. Indeed, instead of finding fault with the Board for this indebtedness, we feel that we have a right to ask for increased liberality as an expression of gratitude to God that He has enabled us to ride out of the storm with so little hurt to the ship. Many ships have gone under during the last two years; but, thank God, we are still afloat. We feel, therefore, no embarrassment in asking for enough money to wipe out this debt. The time has come when it must be done, or the cause will suffer permanent damage. This we must not allow. It will be an everlasting shame if we do.

It is not alone to pay this indebtedness that we ask for increased liberality. The work of evangelizing destitute places in our own country must be pushed forward with renewed vigor. But we cannot do this without more money. The Board is ready and anxious to enter into inviting fields as soon as the means to do it safely are in sight. Neither hard times nor any other cause ought to hinder our advancement. A sacred trust has been committed to us by our Lord. We cannot neglect it without grievous sin. We come, therefore, to the churches of our great and noble brotherhood, and ask for a liberal offering to be made for those worthy ends.

The end of the century draws on. Great issues depend upon the action of God's children. Quit you like men. In order to be thoroughly prepared for this great offering, let every church begin now to get ready by announcements, by telling sermons, by the circulation of literature, by much praying, by the appointment of canvassing committees, and by laying in store liberal sums to be given when the time comes. Remember when the offering begins—Sunday, May 5th.

J. H. HARDIN,  
Cor. Sec'y.

Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, O.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia raised for General Home Missions last year, \$87.10. They have been asked to raise \$100.00 this year. There is no compulsion of course, and it is believed that they will raise this much and more. The General Board at Cincinnati is considering the enlarging of their operations in the provinces, and are only waiting for the means with which to do it. Let every church do its duty, and the \$100 and more will be sent to J. H. Hardin, Cincinnati, O., the first Sunday in May.