

tions are more with English Independency than with United States Congregationalism. Why import a stranger? Is there no man from among ourselves who has worked for and with us, whom we know? There are some of us who think there is, that inquiry should first be made at home, and who believe moreover that the entire staff required can be sought for from among ourselves without any recourse to another land. At all events, home should be searched first, some of us think, and very many of us too. Will you enlighten us on this point, Mr. Editor? for editors are supposed to know all things. Meantime,

A WELL WISHER.

OUR MISSIONARY LOSS.

The study of the Foreign Secretary is draped in black, for half of our foreign force has left us. A home in Brantford is full of sadness, that church mourns for the loss of one of its best children. A large circle of acquaintances is broken, and the Dark Continent has lost one of its truest friends, for "greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

In the early part of last March our churches learned that not only had they a missionary, but their missionary had found a wife. They were married, and on April 3 they sailed from Boston. On the 4th June they landed at Benguella on the coast. After a detention of a month there they went inland, but both had suffered from fever before leaving. Mrs. Currie did not rally, but they were hoping she would soon become accustomed to the climate, when a mishap occurred which was very serious, and after three days of suffering she died. Her husband has constantly spoken of her helpfulness and adaptation to the work before them. Our brother has a lonely heart these days. May the loving Father and abiding Comforter make Their presence and companionship very real to him. But were it better for the mission that she should still live, God would not have taken her. The welfare of the Africans is as dear to His heart as to ours. When Bishop Hannington was murdered in Central Africa, forty young men offered themselves to go to that field. And now a life dear to us has gone up from that soil, not ruthlessly taken by savage hand or by cruel climate, it should quicken our devotion to that field. The Christians of Canada will be more eager than ever to send money, and men, and women, to water that garden where our beloved lies buried. Our brother now struggling on alone has the stuff that heroes are made of. He writes: "Do not think I am despondent or planning a return; on the contrary, a new link fastens me to this land, and so long as the Lord has work for me here I shall endeavour by His grace to stay and

do it." He has lost a good wife, and we have lost a good friend and missionary. But this young heart with her high hopes, her beautiful womanhood, her unselfish goodness, laying it all in the Master's hand, has done more for Him, for Africa and for the world, than many who live longer but live with idle hands, selfish hearts and unconsecrated lives. If any woman has learned the lesson of obedience to Christ at any cost, He will take care of their influence and make it fruitful whether they live or die, whether they are at home or abroad. Would that a message might rise from her grave, and run through every city and village in our land, till it were heard in the ears and sink into the heart of every woman, be she mother or maid—a message that says: "You have but one life to live on earth; put it in the Lord's hands, but whether you go or stay, do not forget Africa." The world has lost a kind face and a gentle helpful presence, but it has not lost her love or her influence.

CONGREGATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND SOCIETY.

MR. EDITOR,—Since the annual meeting, I have received from the churches, on behalf of the Widows and Orphans' Branch, \$107.60, and on behalf of the Retiring Ministers' Branch, \$69.11, as per particulars below.

While thanking most heartily those who have responded to our appeal so far, I am sorry to say that the amount received for the Widows' and Orphans' Branch from the churches up to this date is just about one-half what it was last year at the same date. Through your columns, therefore, I would respectfully urge us, on the churches to remember the claims of this worthy object. Christmas will soon be here, and that would be a very appropriate season in which to remember the widows and orphans.

The capital of the fund must not be trenced upon; and unless the churches help us for some little time yet, the widows and orphans must suffer. I am sure the churches only need to know of this danger in order to prevent it. Very truly yours,

CHARLES R. BLACK, *Secy.-Treas.*

6 Lemoine Street, Montreal, 3rd Dec., 1886.

FOR WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' BRANCH.—Toronto Northern, \$25; Toronto Zion, \$25; Liverpool, N. S. (Sunday school), \$10; Ottawa, \$10; Sheffield, N. B. \$10; Embro, \$8; Maxville and St. Elmo, \$11.60; Martintown, \$4.25; Middleville, \$3.75.

FOR RETIRING MINISTERS' BRANCH.—Toronto Bond Street, \$61.11; Liverpool, N. S. (Sunday school), \$8.

RELIGION cannot pass away. The burning of a little straw may hide the stars of the sky; but the stars are there, and will reappear.