

## The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, April, 26, 1894.

### Women's Mission Work.

THE great missionary convention last week at Ottawa brought to the notice of the public once more the nature and extent of the most admirable work presented with phenomenal success by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. The church is to be congratulated on having such an organization. Its work is proof of what can be done by organized effort for the furtherance of the cause of Christ.

In glancing over the record of the past year, there is much to be thankful for. In the first place, there is evidence of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the consecrated labors of these mothers in Israel. This is what may be confidently looked for when the work for the Lord is approached in the true spirit of worship, and when it is vouchsafed the abundant fruit is easily observed. It is often a matter of surprise that the society has kept ahead of all expectations, progressing and prospering, overcoming all obstacles, floating on the crest of every wave with an astonishing buoyancy, but the reasons are not far to seek, they will be found in the high character of the membership, in the sense of responsibility which is entertained, and in the ennobling aims which are ever kept in view. The members believe in their work, they have faith in the promise and respect for the command of their Lord. How great results would be won were this spirit to dominate the entire membership of the church and especially those who are active workers, from the minister down? The marked success in the various departments of the Society's work is extremely encouraging. The poor in Manitoba and the North-West have many a tale of gratitude to tell. Patiently and cheerfully articles of clothing, and other comforts are collected and sent over the lines of railway for distribution among the needy in these territories. In this way alone so much has been done that it is quite impossible to estimate the good conferred. Yet it is but a small part of the whole. Away in foreign lands are the missionaries supported by the generous contributions for which the society is but the channel. The women of India, whom male missionaries cannot reach are remembered, and the Zenana work with its enlightenment and emancipation is the result. The lady doctor, trained and skillful, bring ease, and joy, and health, to the neglected and suffering. The gospel is spread abroad with its civilizing accompaniments at the most effective points, and the seed sown in hope is bringing many sheaves. Then other countries are not forgotten. Formosa, China, and in the southern seas, Trinidad and the New Hebrides, share in the means at the Society's disposal.

And these means are not insignificant. Last year the funds amounted to about \$41,000 and other years show amounts varying but little from this sum. It is judiciously administered, and as has been said its bestowal has been blessed.

The society shows a membership of about twenty two thousand, certainly a notable figure yet not as great as the earnest, enthusiastic, and pious officers wish for. Their efforts will be directed during this year to still further increase the membership and the usefulness of the Society. That they may reap the full reward of their zeal is to be fervently hoped.

### Federation of Presbyterian Churches.

At the recent meeting of the Executive of the Presbyterian Alliance, Rev. Dr. Cochrane worthily represented his church. The Philadelphia newspapers give considerable space and flattering attention to the part he took in the deliberations of the Committee. One of the daily papers gives the following as the gist of one of Dr. Cochrane's addresses:—In an eloquent address, full of striking points, and interspersed by a large amount of humor, which called forth repeated applause, he advocated closer union between the Presbyterian Churches of Canada and the United States. He stated that although the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was small as compared with the United States, they had 1,000 settled congregations and ministers, 1,300 mission stations, and nearly 500 students and probationers in the mission field. That in addition to their other work, they had foreign missions in India, China, the West Indies, the new Hebrides, Palestine and among the Indians of the North West. He argued that the reformed alliance embracing all the Presbyterian Churches in the world, should be the precursor of closer union between the Presbyterians on the continent of America. After referring to the proposal of Imperial Federation among the British colonies, and that during the past twenty years union had been affected between all the Methodist Churches in Canada, also between the different Presbyterian bodies in Canada, he asked the question why should there not be federation between Presbyterian Churches in the United States and Canada? There were doubtless slight differences between them, but they were one in doctrine, in polity, in the high standard demanded in theological training and they had also like their brethren in the United States occasional heresy trials? Federation of the churches would afford opportunity for united action regarding matters of common interest, such as the reception of ministers into the two churches and the transfer of students and mission work near the boundary line between the United States and Canada. He closed his address by saying a federated Presbyterian Church would be a great moral power even in politics. On both sides there were occasional men who, for political purposes engendered bitter feelings between the two churches, but a united Presbyterian Church which was well known as the constitutional authority of law and order, could do much to crush out unchristian feelings that sometimes are shown on the part of demagogues,

### Young Ministers in Australia.

The *Presbyterian* (Sydney) in the course of an article on the work of the Home Mission Committee has the following which raises the curtain on a phase of a pastor's