

The Executive of the F.M.C. met on the 12th inst., and a long docket was disposed of.

Dr. Buchanan reports that amongst the Bhils the famine is as severe as ever, and other children are being pressed upon the church.

According to the latest letters, Dr. Buchanan's son, Cassels, has had the small-pox. It is hoped that by this time the danger is past.

It is proposed to establish interschool contests in order to stimulate a healthy rivalry amongst the children in the schools and excite an interest amongst the parents as well.

It is expected that Mr. Oswald will, at the beginning of May, enter upon the work in Nootka, which is North of Ahousah, where Mr. Russell is at present doing such excellent work.

The report of the Government Inspector of the High Schools in Central India, was submitted. The Indore High School is reported as being well attended, and in excellent condition.

Mr. McKittrick is very eager to get a Boarding School established at Shoal Lake. Plans have been prepared and it is expected that a large number of children can be gathered in. The Indian chiefs are quite sympathetic, and promise that the children will be sent.

It was reported that Dr. G. L. MacKay is improving in health, and has not yet the use of his voice. The Executive passed a resolution of cordial sympathy with Dr. MacKay in his affliction. As Mr. Gauld says, Dr. MacKay's presence is of great value even if he were unable to do any work.

Dr. J. Fraser Campbell reports six baptisms among the famine children, and that large numbers of them are candidates for baptism; but they are extremely careful lest they should be too hasty in administering the ordinance to children not prepared to receive it, and not fully understand what it means.

The missionaries on the Pacific Coast have formed themselves into a council for mutual help and encouragement. They meet occasionally and discuss subjects bearing upon spiritual and Christian truth, as well as bearing directly upon their work. This Council has already proved helpful to the missionaries and has led to united action and will be fruitful.

The school in Alberni has grown so rapidly that more accommodation is wanted. The present building accommodates forty children, and there are now thirty-eight in it. There are many children upon the Western Coast in other tribes on the Barclay side that have not yet come to the school, but there are intimations of a growing interest in it, so that if room can be provided a large number of children may be expected into the school.

At Crowstand they are much in need of a well in order to get good and convenient water supply. The water is at present drawn from the river up a very steep hill, and has to be drawn for a considerable distance. For a large school, this implies a vast amount of labor, especially in severe weather. The difficulty has been in getting water that is alkali. It is known, however, that alkali waters run in streaks and that by another effort it might be possible to get what is required.

The famine distress in North China is very great. It is reported that three crops have failed, and the fourth is certain to fail. Canadians who know the meaning of the partial failure of the crop will have some

Our Young People

General Topic—Missions: Love of Souls.

Rom. 10:1.

BY W. A. STEWART, M.A.

"Mr. Spurgeon," said a young man to the great preacher, "do you think if we don't send the Bible to the heathen, they will be saved?" "Well!" said Mr. Spurgeon, "as to how God will mete out justice to the heathen under such circumstances, I am not prepared to say; but of this fact I am well assured: If you don't send the Bible to the heathen you won't be saved."

The logic of this argument lies in the essential nature of Christian love. It may be seen formally stated in such a passage as 1. John 4:21. This commandment have we from Him that he who loveth God love his brother also." But our grand warrant for insisting upon the real and necessary connection between missions and love of souls lies in the great example of God Himself, whose unfathomable love for the souls of men expressed itself in the sacrifice of that which was dearest to His heart—His only begotten and well beloved Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life. Here, then, is a chain of three golden links; the second depending upon the first and again securely supporting the third—our love of God—our love of souls—missions.

Under strong conviction of the vital and necessary connection between missions and the love of souls; many of the most saintly Christians have understood missions to mean, foreign missions exclusively. "I go out," said James Gilmour, of Mongolia, "not that I may follow the dictates of common sense, but that I may obey that commandment of Christ, 'Go into all the world and preach.' He who said 'preach,' said also 'go ye into and preach.' All honor to those faithful and heroic men. In so far as they followed out their personal convictions they are worthy of all praise; but it is hardly necessary to remark that others, perhaps equally spiritual and passionate, have been forced to give to Missions a wider meaning and to feel that the Saviour's command already quoted was the Master's signal for them to remain and labor at home. Of much more importance than *where* we work is *how* we work. Directions as to the former are oftentimes general and uncertain; but as to the latter they are always definite and precise. So whether our lot be cast under Eastern skies and we be called upon to labor amidst strange surroundings, or amongst the familiar scenes of the villages and cities in our own beloved land, let us so labor that he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

The subject of greatest importance, however, in this week's study is the proper realization of the essential connection between Missions and the Love of Souls. We know what "Missions" are; are we quite sure we know what "the love of souls" is? It is possible to have many friends and to love such sincerely without knowing anything about the love of souls. The Love of Souls is a spiritual grace—a quality of love with which natural affection has nothing to do. It rises as much above natural affection as natural affection rises above animal instinct. The one is of the earth earthy; the other is from above and belongs by reason of its essential nature to the quality of that

Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of Heaven to earth come down.

Unless inspired by this love Missions are vain and assuredly will come to naught; but difficult as the problem is it will be triumphantly solved when the Church undertakes the work with a single eye to the love of souls, and when that love is felt to be a necessary consequence of the love of God.

For Daily Reading.

Mon.,	Mar. 25.—Christianity's mission. Ps. 60:4; Phil. 2:13-16
Tues.,	" 26.—The claims of the world. John 11:47-52; 1 John 2:1, 2
Wed.,	" 27.—Badges of discipleship. Luke 9:23-26
Thurs.,	" 28.—Jesus' example. Isa. 61:1-4
Fri.,	" 29.—The secret of beneficence. Matt. 6:1-4
Sat.,	" 30.—The inspiring motive. Acts 17:29-31; Rev. 7:9-19
Sun.,	" 31.—Topic, Missions: love of souls. Rom. 10:1

How To Love Souls.

BY REV. J. WILBUR CHAPMAN, D. D.

Paul was a true missionary; he loved men because he loved God. That society is not Christian, whatever else it may be, whose vision of the field of service is not worldwide. If Christ had possessed any other spirit than this, if Paul had been as many of us who call ourselves Christian, how changed would have been the history of the world!

Love for souls is not a matter of will power. You cannot will to love anything, and meet with much success. Two things are necessary.

1. We must realize that souls are lost without Christ. When they took away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, they saw the dead body. The stone in the way of your being, filled with concern for lost souls may be your own life. *Inconsistent* Christians never love souls.

2. We must possess the Spirit of Christ, and He gives Himself only to the surrendered life. If He fills us, we can love the unlovely, and our desire for souls will be akin to His when in agony He wept over them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem?"

New York City.

slight conception of the distress entailed by the failure of four successive crops. The Executive authorized the expenditure of \$200.00 towards the present relief of native Christians in Honan. This money is sent in small sums by carefully selected agents in whom the missionaries have confidence.

In Central India the staff is laboring faithfully to care for all the children that have been committed to them on account of the famine. In some of the villages not one-quarter of the population remain because of the famine. They who remain, however, welcome the missionaries with unusual heartiness. This would be the time when in which to do successful work in teaching them if the staff were sufficiently strong. It is extremely desirable that at least eight additional missionaries be sent out to India this year. Whether or not it can be done, will depend upon the revenue provided by the churches.

Dr. Warden reported the funds for the day of meeting to be \$1,362.58 in debt.

R. P. MacKAY.