

churches. The American Mission Boards have learned the lesson that we must all learn before we can prosper; *i. e.*, that it requires some one to *push* the work and make it a specialty, to keep the subject of missions before the minds of the people.

Our experience and our observation have taught us that even in our local church work, unless we have some one who will take on the financial interest and push it, there is never any success in that line. In the churches where the offerings are a success, it is not because the people are more able or more willing to give, but because they have a financier, one who takes a special interest in the work and keeps it moving.

Here is one special and supreme need just now. One who will devote his time to agitating and educating the people, on the subject of missions and soliciting their offerings, both by personal canvass and mission literature.

It may be said that the preachers should attend to this work in their own congregations. This is much easier said than done. The preachers in our provinces with a few exceptions, are in an attitude that forbids them from having much to say on the financial question. It is a position not easily reached for a preacher who is "out-at-the-elbows" to advocate the necessity of giving without conveying the idea that he is speaking one word for missions and two himself.

It is the humble judgment of the writer that no better or more needed work could be done in the interest of missions, than a constant, direct and personal work along this line, in educating the churches, securing their co-operation and elevating the standard of mission enterprise, by one who is able and willing to devote his time to it. When this is done we will find that our provinces are not one whit behind other countries in their devotion and consecration to the work of God.

A SUGGESTION.

E. C. FORD.

As the time draws nigh for holding our annual meeting those interested are thinking and planning as to the best way to advance the interest of the cause committed to their trust. These meetings being largely a committee of the brethren "on ways and means" to advance the cause of Christ in these provinces, every church should see to it that some of her best and most earnest workers were encouraged to attend. It would also be very helpful if those who attend those meetings were authorized by the churches they represent to make some suggestion, or offer some plan by which the cause of Christ may be more rapidly advanced.

Considerable progress has been made in the last decade, but nothing to what there would have been had there been that hearty co-operation of the churches that the cause demands. If the several churches would take on the responsibility which is not only

their right, but duty, those who have the work in charge would be able to accomplish a far greater work than has yet been done in these provinces. But before this will be done there must be some faithful missionary work done among the churches. The one great need of to-day is, that the churches be awakened to a deeper interest in the cause we plead outside of their own localities. Too many are seemingly satisfied to exist, and put no effort to spread the simple gospel of Christ, as it is our duty to do.

Now the question is, How can we interest the churches in this work and secure their hearty co-operation in the future? The circumstances being favorable the resident preacher can do much along this line. But as some of them are situated it is difficult to accomplish much in this direction. Then, again, we have been trying this plan for years, and the churches, with but few exceptions, and they are noble exceptions, too, are not alive to the necessity of their taking hold of this work as its needs demand.

Now my suggestion is that a good man be secured to take on just this kind of work, whose duty it shall be to visit the several churches to stir up their pure minds in the way of duty, to enlist the sympathy and substantial co-operation of all the churches in our home mission work, and to set in order, as far as possible, the things that are needed.

There are weak churches that could be greatly helped by a little timely aid in securing for them needed labor and helping them to get into the work. This is purely and scripturally the work of an evangelist, and without such work things will be likely to go along in the slow way they have been going for years. This evangelist may hold special meetings when the circumstances are favorable, but his first and especial work should be to awaken the churches to a sense of their duty and stir up a greater missionary spirit both in the churches and among the preachers than now exists.

In suggesting the employment of an evangelist for this work, I would not be understood to encourage the withdrawal of needed aid from any of the mission points now being assisted, but rather in addition to this to put a regular evangelist in the field to do this much needed work, which, it is believed, would greatly strengthen the hands of those who conduct our missionary affairs, and enable them to do much more in the way of establishing the cause in new fields, and at the same time would do much good among the churches thus visited.

I am simply suggesting this for the consideration of the brethren who will soon be gathered in our annual meeting. It has generally been thought the first duty of the evangelist to hold meetings, and if additions could not be reported the work would be voted a failure. To my mind this is only secondary. First let us get the churches at work and the additions will take care of themselves.

I wish all our churches would take this suggestion into consideration and come up to our annual prepared to take some action in this matter. We are doing well even under present circumstances, but we can do very much better.

A FINAL WORD.

JAS. DICKINSON.

I am pleased to hear that no one is troubling Bro. Stevenson in Montague, and not only pleased, but delighted, that such union exists between the minister and the brethren in the church there. I hope this union will continue to grow, that that church will be like a city set on a hill; that it will not only shine in and around Montague, but will extend its glorious light over all this fair island.

I am sorry that I overlooked the work done by Bros. Crawford and Knox. Far be it for me to ignore the work of any man, much less the work of those worthy men, who toiled and sacrificed so much for the cause, and were not satisfied to sit down and enjoy the fruits of other men's labor.

Bro. Stevenson says that there were only about forty members in New Glasgow church when Bro. Crawford located there, and in a few months the membership was doubled. Does Bro. Stevenson mean to say that this rapid growth was caused by Bro. Crawford giving his whole time to the work of the ministry, or does he mean to say that Bro. Crawford located with the church in New Glasgow at this time as a minister of the church under engagement. If he does, I am not surprised that he holds the views he does regarding the minister and his calling.

There is much more in Bro. Stevenson's letter that I might refer to, but as it is mostly personal I think it will be better for the cause that I should let it pass, for I am certain that it will not be interesting to the intelligent readers of THE CHRISTIAN. If Bro. Stevenson enjoys such style of writing, I do not object.

Correspondence.

THE P. E. I. ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting on the Island is now past. It was a very pleasant one. The weather being very fine helped to make the meeting a success. No better place than New Glasgow could be found for such a meeting. It is the home of our aged and much esteemed Bro. Crawford, who has done so much for the cause of Christ.

The church, which is new, is a model one. Then the brethren are very kind; and the writer has no hesitation in saying that all the visiting brethren and sisters were well cared for, for which they gave a hearty vote of thanks at the close of the meeting.

All the preaching brethren on the Island were present, also Bro. O. G. Hertzog, of Hiram College, Ohio, and F. T. Norton, Missouri.

On Lord's day Bro. Hertzog preached at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. At the 3 p. m. meeting a young lady came forward and confessed Christ.

Bro. Hertzog is a very forcible preacher. All who heard him were well pleased with his manner of presenting the truth. Bro. R. W. Stevenson preached at 7 p. m. At