

CENTURY FUND NOTES.

The Agent's investigation of the position and prospects of the Century Fund canvass, in the various sections of the Church which he has recently visited, indicates that the following results may be expected: In Ontario and Quebec, in the neighborhood of \$430,000. In the Maritime Provinces, \$85,000. In the region west of Lake Superior, \$45,000. In all, \$560,000. There is thus the possibility of a shortage of \$40,000, whereas the aim of the Church should have been to secure subscriptions of, at least \$65,000, in order to secure the full payment of \$600,000 to Common Fund.

It is well that some reliable forecast should be put before the Church at this stage, as the knowledge of what is needed will doubtless set friends more earnestly to work, that any shortage may be provided for.

The Thanksgiving services in many churches last week have had as their theme, "The great things God has done for us." The barns are well filled; there is a prosperous business outlook; there is profitable employment for all classes of workers; there never was a time when our people should be better disposed to make a thank-offering to God, and as these weeks are being used in completing the canvass it may well be expected that the conservative estimates of the Agent shall be overpast. It should not be difficult in such a year of blessing to secure additional contributions from those who had already subscribed. Especially it should be the care of those whom God has largely prospered "to give freely as they have freely received." It appears that those in moderate circumstances have responded to the extent of over \$400,000 to Common Fund and over \$800,000 in all. Those who are wealthy are thus assured that the movement is not one of those in which a few well off people are to be approached, and the many are to go free. Having this assurance they will understand what they should do, and we may have faith that they will respond, and that thus the whole sum aimed at shall be fully provided.

We hear of stronger congregations who are preparing to add to their contribution. We hear also of wealthy men and women who, within the last few days, have intimated, in one case \$5,000; in other cases sums of \$1,000, \$500, \$300, and the like, according to ability. This is as it should be. Let all do as God has done for them and there shall be no deficiency.

An Open Letter to the Church.

To the Ministers, Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.—For twelve years you have been watching with sympathetic interest the planting and growth of our Church Missions in North Honan. You have rejoiced with us in the many tokens of the Lord's favour vouchsafed to this young Mission; you have wept with us in the sorrows which have come to it from time to time. At no period were the favourable indications more numerous than at the beginning of this year, and we all expected

this to be the most successful year yet witnessed in our work for God there. With fraternal feelings characterizing the workers, the language fairly well mastered by most of them, all the initial difficulties overcome, over a hundred names on the catechumens' list, the number of baptized members steadily increasing, witnesses for Christ in over seventy villages, and doors for service constantly opening before us, we were justified in feeling encouraged. The work in every department was owned of God. There was evidence of a friendly spirit on the part of many magistrates and people; hostility was largely a matter of ancient history with us and we looked forward to times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

All this is, for the present, changed. An anti-foreign storm has burst over the Chinese Empire. The work of Missions in many districts has come to a standstill. The workers in Honan, in common with hundreds all over China, were compelled to flee to cities of refuge, and on the way thither were attacked by armed desperadoes, some of the number receiving severe wounds, all being stripped of their earthly goods, and left to the tender mercies of raging heathen mobs. For a time all hope of escape seemed cut off. God graciously intervened in our every hour of need. He opened a way of escape in the time of greatest danger, and through his good hand upon us we reached Shanghai in safety.

You have remembered us in prayer during these twelve years; you have shared with us in the sorrows and joys incidental to our work. Blessings vouchsafed have been in response to the petitions offered in Canada as well as in Honan, and the merciful deliverance recently granted us, we owe to the prayers offered in faith by thousands of God's children in this country. Unite with us in praising God for His signal manifestations of grace and power on our behalf and let us continue waiting on Him at the throne of grace.

The persecuted native church in China needs the prayers of God's people. The Empire, torn with factions and corrupt to the core, needs as never before, believing prayer on its behalf. Should we not pray that statesmen may be guided to a wise settlement of the existing difficulty; that the shedding of blood may be averted, and an open door soon again set before God's servants in China. This is the hour and power of darkness there. The darkest hour is that before the dawn. God is above the darkness. His hand is guiding. His promises can not fail of accomplishment. He has enabled His servants to be faithful unto death in past times of trial and is now strengthening them in this fearful persecution.

On behalf of the Mission now broken up and expectantly waiting to begin anew in Honan, we tender heartfelt thanks to you all, and pledge ourselves with you to renewed consecration and prayer. Signed on behalf of the Staff,

JONATHAN GOFORTH,
MURDOCH MACKENZIE.

Toronto, 15th Oct., 1900.

The illustrated and descriptive holiday list of publications of Mr. Robert Howard Russell, has come to hand, and like all the products of Mr. Russell's workshop, is a distinct credit to the art preservative. For books gotten up in the very height of artistic excellence Mr. Russell enjoys an enviable name and is still doing much to advance the cause of good bookmaking on this continent. New York, 3 West 29th Street.

Need of Funds.

Rev. Dr. Warden informs us that the several funds in the Western section of the church are in debt to the extent of \$120,000. The interest on this is at the rate of \$6,000 a year, or \$500 each month. Apart from this heavy interest charge, it is very undesirable that the church should be a borrower to such an extent, and it is earnestly hoped that the treasurers of all congregations and Sabbath schools and Missionary Societies, who have funds on hand for the schemes of the church, will forward these without delay to Dr. Warden, Toronto.

It is not necessary to wait until these have been allocated. If sent now the money will be used in reducing the present heavy debt, and the allocation can be made by the congregation at any time before the close of the church year.

We again remind congregational treasurers that, by the action of the General Assembly, the church year now terminates on 26th February.

It ought to be said that the indebtedness is not confined to one or two schemes—all are behind, and the indebtedness is very nearly the same in each, in proportion to the total estimate of expenditure for the year.

Literary Notes.

On Nov. 1st H. M. Caldwell Co., Boston Mass., will publish an edition de luxe of the "Memoirs of Count Grammont," by Anthony Hamilton, edited by Sir Walter Scott. This edition which will be limited to two hundred, and seventy-five copies, will be beautifully illustrated with etchings.

We have received a full list of books in belles-lettres, issued in choice and limited editions by Mr. Mosher publisher of The Biblot. This list will appeal to that cultured minority of book-lovers found in every community, who appreciate merit both as to contents and excellence of the printer's art. All books are put up in separate slide cases, with extra wrappers, making them most acceptable as presentation volumes.—T. B. MOSHER, Portland, Maine.

In the October number of Current History, the Chinese problem is unraveled of much of its complexity; the diplomatic moves on the checkerboard of Europe and Asia are indicated; the political problems of the United States at home and in her new possessions are clearly presented; the origin of the great coal strike is described; the issues of the Canadian general political campaign are clearly set forth, etc. As a portrait gallery of living celebrities alone, the work is worth a great deal. (Boston, Mass.; Current History Co. \$1.50 a year.)

The October Number of Blackwood's Magazine contains the first instalment of a new romance by Neil Munro, which promises to be of thrilling interest. "How an English Girl Taught a Pennsylvanian Country School" is an amusing little sketch, and "In the Heart of Kalamantan" is a first rate story of a psychological turn. In "Musings Without Method" Marie Corelli is given a large number of very hard hits. "The Ecclesiastical Situation in Scotland" will interest all Presbyterians.—Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.