

Archdeacon Phair. It will be understood that I am only speaking of the action of the C.M.S. in this diocese.

These Indian missions are numerous and costly. The Indians are so few and poor at any one mission that the whole cost of the mission has to come from outside, and there are circumstances in the isolation of the missions in the interior that add greatly to their costliness. In some missions, the Indians are nearly all Christian; in others they are still heathen. The society has now withdrawn in six years £795, which with the cost still on the diocese of missions formerly surrendered and still unchanged in character should call for about £1,000, or about \$5,000 a year. On the other hand, it gives us £200 from the bequest of W. Finlayson, an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, but that is for additional work.

The practical effect of the withdrawal up to the present is to throw on the diocese of Rupert's Land all the Indian missions in the Province of Manitoba. The remaining fourteen-twentieths of the C.M.S. grant is required for the numerous missions that are in the diocese of Rupert's Land, but in the Province of Ontario.

The church settlers in the diocese in connection with our service do not much exceed 20,000, all counted, men, women, and children. Churchmen in Canada will recognize the impossibility of this handful of people, who, after all the help they are getting from outside for their settlement missions, are raising for themselves the greater part of the support of over sixty clergymen, with all other Church expenses—finding in addition, \$5,000 for these Indian missions.

Our people quite admit a measure of responsibility and duty and only four out of all our parishes and missions having resident clergymen omitted last year to take up a collection for Indian work, but we need quite \$3,000 from outside even for the coming year.

Every effort has been made to induce the C.M.S. to change its resolution, or at least to defer its operation till the society could more fully satisfy itself by the inquiries of a deputation on the spot, or till the mission work of the Dominion was fully organized; but it has declined.

The Ven. Archdeacon Phair, who is local secretary for the C.M.S., will visit Eastern Canada and give full explanations of the position of the missions.

The C.M.S. intimated in announcing its resolution that it expected friends in Eastern Canada in part to take its place. I cannot but think that the support of these missions, on which the society has spent so much means, has a first claim on the friends of the C.M.S.

It is evident that, unless considerable help is received, many of these missions must at no distant date be closed.

R. RUPERT'S LAND.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.

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A LETTER FROM INDIA.

FROM MRS. TWING TO THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY,
U. S. A.*

FROM Benares, this most sacred city of the heathen world, where, on the banks of the Ganges, the idolatrous worship of the Hindu has been carried on daily for over 2,000 years, on the Feast of the Epiphany, I desire to send a loving greeting to all my friends and fellow-workers in the Woman's Auxiliary. It is fitting that I should do so here, and on this day above all others, when to the wise men of the East it was revealed that the King of kings, long watched and waited for, had come at last, and that His Kingdom should include, from the beginning, all the nations and peoples of the earth, not Jews only, but Gentiles from every land.

To-day I have visited the spot in Old Benares, marked by an ancient Buddhist temple, where Gautama Shākya-muni, 500 years before the coming of our Lord, gathered about him his disciples, and first, after becoming Buddha, taught them the doctrine which, because it had in it high and noble and spiritual elements not found in Hinduism, quickly attracted converts, and because it had in missionary purpose, quickly spread through India.

Tradition tells us that, after the birth of Christ, the Emperor of China, hearing in his distant capital, possibly through the story of the wise men, that a great Prophet had arisen, sent messengers to find Him and bring back His teachings to the Celestial Empire. They travelled as far as to this very spot, and meeting with followers of Buddha, and listening to the words of their master and the story of his life, supposed they had found indeed the Holy One they sought, and, returning to their own country, carried with them the Buddhist faith, which is stronger there to-day than it is at present in its earliest home. Driven out of India by the Brahmins, who have regained their primal power over the Hindus, it is entrenched in Thibet, Ceylon, Burmah, Corea, China, and Japan, forming one of the chief bulwarks of heathenism, against Christianity in the Asiatic world.

As far back as tradition reaches, Shintoism has controlled Japan, Confucianism China, and Hinduism India, Buddhism and Mohammedan-

* In the absence of the editor of this department we are pleased to insert here Mrs. Twing's interesting letter to her American sisters, taken from the *Spirit of Missions*.—Ed. C. C. M.