

Lord's work. He will care for it, and though His people may have their faith severely tested at times, He will bring them off more than conquerors.

In the present condition of our work and wants, it is difficult to forecast the future, or to lay down a policy by which we may not only emerge from our pecuniary straits, but still make the progress that is desirable.

Some of my proposals will likely be unpopular; and it is with very great reluctance that I even mention them. Perhaps some of our friends may suggest a more excellent way.

I imagine it will be necessary to

REFUSE ALL NEW APPLICATIONS

for missionary aid for some time. I am loathe to make this proposal in face of facts I have in my possession. There are just now places opening to us that give promise of great usefulness, they will probably be closed in a few years, but there does not seem to be any help for them just now.

I still more reluctantly suggest that it may be necessary to

REDUCE THE GRANTS

in some cases, or adopt a sliding scale. I think it may be well to have recourse to the latter plan, for there is danger that in some instances churches may get into the habit of depending on the society beyond a reasonable time. If we reduced yearly say ten to twenty per cent., and churches understood that, they would probably make an effort to make up the difference from year to year, and sooner reach self-support.

It may be possible in the present state of our finances, to push some of our mission churches over on

THEIR OWN RESOURCES.

I know there are very few that can stand this, or at least that think they can; for the same hard times that cripple the society, cripples even more the individual church, as the statistical secretary's report amply proves.

I do not think that the appointment of local committees will make much difference in the income of the society, unless the pastors take an interest in the matter and work it up, as one of our brethren in the eastern townships has done, from ten dollars four years ago, to one twenty-five as it is this year. The Cowansville church has not needed any stimulating from any local committee, neither has the London church in the west whose donations to all denominational objects have been quadrupled within the past three years. The same can be said of others, but in every case it rests with the pastor. After all we can do among ourselves we will still require help from outside. Every denomination in the land, situated as we are, have had large assistance from abroad, some are having it still though they are large and influential.

I have for years advocated making a personal appeal to the churches of our order in Great Britain. Our brethren there may have a great deal of work on their hands, and they may also be suffering from depression in trade, but they are numerous and wealthy. There is more wealth in one town in England than in the whole of Canada, and one church of our denomination in the city of Bristol gives more to missions than the whole of ours in Canada. Britain is sending us her surplus population, and will continue to do so for many years to come. It cannot be the Christian people in that old land are so careless about their own children that they would refuse to assist in planting churches of Christ throughout this new land. The members of other communions are not; have we any reason to conclude that the Congregationalists are? A very small amount from each of the three thousand churches in Great Britain, would be a large sum for us, and would give an impetus to all our work. Written appeals from any quarter fail to reach the churches, I have always maintained that we should by some means put our work and wants fairly before our brethren, and I think the time has come when it is absolutely necessary to do it. Would the United States be unwilling to help us to some extent, notwithstanding their own missionary deficiency? I think not.

This is the jubilee year of the Colonial Missionary Society. We owe a good deal to that society, for nearly 50 years it has been helping us, out of its small income, and the history of Canadian Congregationalism should interest the mother churches and secure a much larger support in the future. I do not know of a more opportune time than the present to have Canadian claims presented.

There is one other plan that might be adopted, which would probably(?) ease the society, but as it is purely personal in its character, I will reserve the submission of it till a more suitable and less public occasion, simply saying that I am willing to be the servant of all for Christ's sake, and to be guided by my brethren into any course that will benefit the cause of Christ, and advance the interests of our churches.

I live only for this, and will be willing to make any reasonable personal sacrifice to attain my object.

I remain, dear Editor,

Truly yours,

T. HALL

—Why can we not love Him as well when he treats us sweetly, and gives us health and plenty, quietness and peace, as others did upon gibbets and under axes, in the hands of tormentors, and in hard wildernesses, in nakedness and poverty, in the midst of all evil things and all sad discomforts?