

But, brethren, we have a better guarantee than even its past triumphs for the success of missionary work in the future. He of whom it is written that He cannot lie has pledged His blessing to it. He has Himself placed in our hands the weapon with which we are to fight, most confidently, for the "pulling down of the strongholds of Satan" in "the habitations of cruelty." "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." The prayers of the Church are thus her best equipment for the warfare to which the Captain of her salvation summons her. God, so to speak, commits Himself to a promise for the conversion of the heathen to the knowledge of Christ if we will only be fervent in our intercession for it. He places Himself, as it were, at our disposal, and guarantees the result, if His Church will only be faithful in fulfilling the condition which He has Himself suggested.

Than this, brethren, what greater encouragement in the prosecution of our foreign missionary work? It is *your* work—the work bound upon each of you that bears on his brow the symbol of dedication to the crucified One. Be up, then, and doing. Our Church in Canada still falls far short of the measure of her duty. Of living messengers of the Gospel to the heathen, she has as yet sent out only six. Of Epiphany offerings, she has contributed during three years past only \$45,481.14. Both these numbers could be largely increased. They will be if the members of the Church, stimulated by an awakened sense of duty inspired by the Holy Ghost, will realize each his and her individual responsibility, and discharge it in the light, first, of their own obligation to the Gospel; next, of the crying needs of the heathen ready to perish; and, lastly, of that final judgment in which we shall, every one, "give account of the deeds done in the body."

#### PASTORAL LETTER.

**W**E are pleased to place on record the following pastoral letter, issued by the bishops of the Church of England in Canada, who were present at the late General Synod held in Toronto:—

*To the Faithful in Christ Jesus, Members of the Church of England in Canada, Greeting:*

Your chief pastors hasten to make you partakers of their joy in the consolidation of our Church, now happily completed. Hitherto some of our dioceses have had the opportunity of acting together in their ecclesiastical provinces of Canada and Rupert's Land. Others outside these two provinces have been standing alone, unable, by reason of their isolation, to receive or to impart that additional life, and

strength, and energy which are found in union. Now, from east to west—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—all are united in the General Synod, which, through the good hand of our God upon us, has been constituted with the hearty good will of all. In it and through it, all our dioceses are so bound together that they can "take sweet counsel together," and speak with one voice.

Some thirty years ago, the civil provinces of our country, so feeble in their isolation, were consolidated under the one Government of the Dominion of Canada. The results of that union are familiar to us all. They foreshadow the advantages which we may look for from the union of all our dioceses under the General Synod.

The life, and rights, and powers of our dioceses will be just what they have been hitherto, except that a deeper meaning and fresh energy will be infused into them. For it is distinctly laid down as a fundamental principle that "The General Synod shall not take away from or interfere with any rights, powers, or jurisdiction of any diocesan synod, within its own territorial limits, as now held or exercised by such synod." Another fundamental principle is that the General Synod brings with it no change in the existing system of provincial synods. The retention or the abolition of the provincial synods is left to each province and the dioceses therein.

The first act of the General Synod was to set forth the position of the Church of England in Canada, in the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; the foundations of her faith, her worship, and her discipline, and her determination to maintain and transmit the same unimpaired. We repeat this solemn declaration to you to-day, and desire you to store it up in your hearts and minds.

#### SOLEMN DECLARATION.

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen. We, the bishops, together with the delegates of the clergy and laity of the Church of England, in the Dominion of Canada, now assembled in the first General Synod, hereby make the following solemn declaration:

"We declare this Church to be, and desire that it shall continue, in full communion with the Church of England throughout the world as an integral portion of the one body of Christ, composed of churches, which, united under the one Divine Head, and in the fellowship of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, hold the one faith revealed in Holy Writ, and defined in the creeds as maintained by the undivided primitive Church in the undisputed Ecumenical councils; receive the same canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same divinely ordered sacraments, through the ministry of the same apostolic orders, and worship one God and Father, through the same Lord Jesus Christ, by the same Holy and Divine Spirit, who is given to them that believe to guide them into all truth. And we are determined, by the help of God, to hold and maintain the doctrine, and sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded in His Holy Word, and as the Church of England hath received and set forth in 'the Book of Common Prayer, and admin-