

wealthy members of the Church who are independent of business, we do need a few hundreds of paid agents, supported by the Church in general, to carry the sacred fire to dark and distant lands, where the lighting process has not yet been commenced in order to hasten the illumination. But to depend upon a paid agency for a *continuance* of the work, after it has been fairly set a-going under the care of native pastors—more especially in localities where there are thousands of living but idle Christians, is not only to postpone indefinitely the coming of Christ's Kingdom, but to proclaim to the world that Christianity has in itself no propagative power, and that Christians, after securing the salvation of their own souls, may give their chief attention and energies to the things of a present world, and leave the work of Christ to be done by substitutes.

LETTER FROM THE CONVENER.

IN THE DECEMBER RECORD we called the attention of the Church to the claims of the work carried on by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Western Section. I am glad to say that the response has been so far encouraging. The amount received by the Treasurer up to the present date is nearly \$1000 in advance of what was received at the same period last year. While this advance in the contributions of the Church is cheering, it does not promise to be sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure of the year. The financial year commenced with a debt of \$5094.30 which has grown to \$19,385.30 at the present time. The debt is considerably greater than it was at the same period last year.

The increase in the debt is due to the large expenditure connected with the purchase of mission buildings at Indore, and the erection of an hospital at Tamsui, and the sending out of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie to Indore. These expenses are no doubt to some extent exceptional, and may not recur next year. It will not, however, be wise for the Church to count much upon this, as experience shows that almost every year brings with it large exceptional expenditures of various kinds which have to be met.

It has been the policy of the Foreign Mission Committee hitherto to meet these exceptional expenses out of the ordinary revenue, and to avoid as much as possible special appeals for special objects connected with the general work. These appeals usually reach only a small portion of the membership of the Church and generally the very persons who give most liberally to the ordinary revenue. It is certainly a much better system to make the general fund sufficiently strong to

bear the whole expense of the Foreign Mission work, so that the entire membership of the Church may feel that they have a personal interest in every part of the work. I trust that the congregations which have still to apportion their funds will devise liberal things for the perishing heathen. If the liberality of the congregations of the Church rises to the very modest estimate of the Committee of the General Assembly, and places \$25,000 at the disposal of the Committee, I am not without hope that the deficit reported at the end of the year will be considerably less than that with which the year began. This, however, implies an increase of nearly \$4000 in the contributions of congregations. This would not be difficult to secure, did we only remember the Master's words, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

WM. McLAREN, *Convener.*

Toronto, 13th Feb. 1880.

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THIS number of the RECORD is devoted more especially to the HOME MISSIONS of the Church. As the time is so near for closing the accounts, and a large amount is still required to meet the payments now due to the missionaries, it is earnestly hoped that there will be no further delay on the part of congregations who have not yet contributed to this most important Fund. The rise and progress of MISSIONS IN INDIA is in hand for next month. Subscribers will receive their accounts along with this number. They will please remember that our terms are, *payment in advance.*