

## Our Home Work.

Providing for children fills a large place in the world's thought and work. It takes shape in various ways, in giving them a trade, in fitting them by education for their work in life, in starting them in business, perhaps in laying up wealth for them. In one way or another most parents seek to do the best they can for those coming after them. And this is well. "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

But one way, one of the best ways, of doing this, is often lost sight of, viz., that of providing a good country for them to live in. It is well to provide them, if we can, with a farm, with an education, with a start in business, but what are all these if they have not a good country to live in, a country that has the peace and safety and prosperity that can only be found in a land leavened with righteousness.

One way, without which such an end cannot be attained, is by having the Gospel, with its great, grand, truths, regularly preached in every corner of our land, that men be thus constantly reminded of the claims of God upon them, that they have regularly uplifted before them the loftiest and noblest ideals of life, such as the Word of God alone can supply, that the chief end of man, a saved, redeemed, life, a Christian life, be made as far as possible the aim of men. To accomplish this grand work is the purpose of what is called "Our Home Work" as a Church, more especially the four great schemes, Colleges, Home Missions, Augmentation, and French Evangelization. Along all these lines we help in making the best possible provision for children, a good country for them to live in.

There is special urgency along these lines at the present time. Our land is fast filling with a strange new population in the far West. The only thing that will keep our land pure, and make it what we would like our children to have as their home and heritage, is the Gospel.

We may leave our children property and it may not be a blessing to them, or they may lose it, but effort expended in leaving them a better country will never fail to accomplish something towards the desired end, and in some measure will always be productive to them of good.

Love of kindred and love of country as well as compassion for the strangers coming to our land should lead to the most earnest efforts in the different departments of "Our Home Work.

## FROM SIR WILLIAM DAWSON.

"Sincerely yours. (though with little power to think or write)," is the touching close of a note received a few days since from Sir William Dawson.

But the note itself showed the old-time interest and keen perception of duty that has done so much for education and religion in Canada. Its opening words are the very practical ones:—"I beg to enclose my cheque for my subscription to the New Hebrides Mission."

Sir William is the only survivor of the Foreign Mission Committee that had to do with the beginning of our Foreign work, when Rev. John Geddie went forth half a century ago. He was one of Geddie's most intimate friends and companions in boyhood and youth, and a life-long supporter of the work in the New Hebrides.

But his interest is not merely a memory, linked with the long ago, but a keen and living interest, in advance of most, as to our duty in grasping the new opportunities that come. Continuing he writes:—

"I notice that Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Manitoba, has had some communication with the Galicians settled in the North-West, as to missionaries. If correct, I hope this will be followed up. Surely, if God sends these foreign people here, it is a call from Him, greater than that, even, of the heathen world. Why should you not take up this in the Record? I am sure Christian people will sympathize in the matter.

The Doukobors, other foreigners who are also coming, I presume are Evangelized Christians already; but they deserve attention, and should have at least Christian teachers for the young.

All these people, in any case, should learn English, and surely better that of Christian people, than of the profaner element they may meet with in the West."

In the foremost ranks of Canada's leaders in knowledge for the last half century, from his earliest Superintendency of Education in Nova Scotia, to his recent retirement from forty years principalship of McGill University, Montreal, Sir William has ever placed religious knowledge in the forefront. In his fertile brain originated the Presbyterian College, Montreal. And now his uppermost thought, as it should be ours, for the inflowing immigration, is how it may be leavened with Truth. Patriotism and Christianity both call us to this work.