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Edited by Rev. Wm. Inglis.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1880.

LETTERS from Rev. Messrs. Hammond and Wallace and other communications unavoidably crowded out.

## MISSIONARY WORK AMONG THE STUDENTS.

WE call the special attention of our readers to the annual report of Knox College Students' Missionary Society which will be found in another part of this week's issue. In many respects that report is at once interesting and suggestive. It tells of what has been done in the Home Mission field by the Students' Society, in the past, and indicates very distinctly what is proposed for the future. But the interest which the Church in general ought to take in the work thus reported on ought not to be confined to the mere direct success realized. That success has been anything but small. New and neglected districts have been supplied with Gospel ordinances, churches have been formed, the children cared for and gathered into Sabbath schools, interest in divine things awakened in the outlying localities, God's people comforted and built up in their most holy faith, with, in the end, all the machinery of church life and work fully and permanently established to an extent, and at a period which, humanly speaking, could not otherwise have been possible. For all this, the members of our Church generally have great reason to be thankful. Good, honest, persistent, pioneering work has been done, with tangible and satisfactory evidence of the divine blessing having rested upon it.

Important, however, as all this has been and is, it is, perhaps, the smallest part of the good which has been accomplished. In seeking to bless others, the students themselves have received a double blessing, and the Church generally has, in this way, we doubt not, been made "a partaker of the benefit." The missionary interest awakened in their student days has gone with not a few to their subsequent regular spheres of pastoral work and has issued in many missionary societies having been formed, in succeeding students having been counselled and encouraged, and in the necessary funds for the support and extension of the work having been supplied with ever growing liberality. It is quite true that even yet it is comparatively "the day of small things," but it is "a day" anything but to be "despised." The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a work before it, in the Home as well as in the Foreign field, which may well tax all its energies and call forth its highest and most sustained enthusiasm. That Church has, from the first, been a missionary Church, and when it ceases to be so it will undoubtedly wither and die. It is impossible for it to stand still. In the very fact of its merely holding its own, there would, in such a country as this, be indubitable evidence of disintegration and decay having already commenced. There is not a single Presbyterian congregation in Canada which was not constituted on the distinct and deliberate understanding that from the very first it should

hold forth, as well as hold fast, the Word of life. The first missionaries sent from the old country were supported on this condition, that there was to be, on the part of all benefited by their labours, a reaching out unto the regions beyond. Every congregation, accordingly, which is not doing its very best for the support and extension of the Home Missions of the Church, at the very least, is untrue to its own engagements, and cannot expect the blessing from on high to rest on its endeavours at mere self-maintenance. To imagine that the support of our varied missionary enterprises is a work either of supererogation or charity would be the fondest of all possible delusions. Instead of any of our settled congregations not being able to afford to take part in such work, none of them can afford *not* to take part in it, and the more activity they display, the more will they experience the blessing. Though the missionary funds have felt the influence of the hard times, yet we are persuaded the right missionary spirit is, year by year, gathering strength throughout the whole of the Presbyterian Church of the Dominion, and that it is doing so is to a greater or less extent to be attributed to the zeal and self-sacrificing earnestness displayed by the students of our different theological institutions, in such pioneering work as that of which this report is the record. The importance of the work accomplished every year in this way by the students of all our Colleges could not easily be over-estimated, and surely the least that our congregations can do in shewing how highly they appreciate its value and how earnestly they desire its ever-increasing efficiency is to supply the necessary funds with ungrudging liberality, and with their earnest prayers and hearty sympathy to send forth the different labourers to their evangelistic work in the fullest confidence that the Lord who has blessed in the past will continue to do so in the future, and that in ways, and to a degree, even yet more marked and unmistakeable.

## "TO EVERY ONE HIS WORK."

IT is said that Mr. Spurgeon addresses every person seeking admission to the membership of his church in something like the following language: "Well, if you are received, what individual work are you going to take up and carry on for the Lord?" As a result, it is added, there are now enrolled on Mr. Spurgeon's church register the names of 5,750 communicants who represent just so many willing workers under his leadership.

We believe it has also been stated as a fact that in the Rev. Dr. Hall's church, in New York, there is not a single member who has not some special work assigned, and who is not seeking to perform that work. Many pastors find it a very difficult matter to accomplish anything approaching to this. To invite directly and pointedly to any particular kind of work is found, in many cases, a sure means of driving individuals away altogether, and the more pressing the invitation, and the more urgent the request, so much the greater the recoil from the very idea of such a thing; while there is at the same time a striking reluctance to volunteer services for any department of Church enterprise. We have been much struck with the plan adopted by one of the pastors of this city, which has been found to answer exceedingly well. By its means a large number have been secured for congregational effort who might not otherwise have been reached at all. The plan is simply the following. Two cards are issued to each member of the church. On the one side of this card the following "directions" are printed:

"Each one will get two cards; one to keep for reference, and the other to mark, sign, and return to the minister. Look over the list carefully, ponder the matter well, ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and then put a mark opposite any department of work indicated on the other side of the card, which you think most needed, or for which you may find yourself specially adapted. Mark the card you keep and the card you return in the same way. Should you prefer any department of work not specified on the card, please mention it.

"Name. \_\_\_\_\_"

The other side, referred to in the above directions, has the following:

"TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK."

"Son, go work to-day in my vineyard."

"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"

## THE WORK OF THE

Ministry—Eldership—Deacon or Manager—Trustees—Sabbath schools—Young People's Christian Association—Congregational Prayer Meeting—House-to-House Prayer Meetings—Dorcas Society.

THE VISITATION OF THE Sick—Bereaved—Sorrowing—Careless—Strangers.

RECRUITING FOR THE Church—Sabbath School—Prayer Meetings.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR Ordinary Revenue—Home Missions—Foreign Missions—French Evangelization—Other Special Purposes.

DISTRIBUTION OF Tracts—Leaflets—Text Cards, etc.

HELPING TO SING In the Choir—At Prayer Meetings—At Social Gatherings.

THE WORK OF Reclaiming the Intemperate—Securing employment.

According to the "directions," one of these cards is marked with a cross opposite the one or more of the departments of work mentioned, and handed to the pastor, while the other is similarly marked and retained for reference. In scarcely a single instance, we are assured, have these cards been returned altogether unmarked, while, in some instances, two, three, four, or more kinds of work have been selected, and the pastor has thus a supply of workers always ready, so that when additional help, in any department, is needed, he knows exactly to whom to apply, and the brother or sister has the feeling that it is not the minister who is forcing this work upon him or her, but that it is the result of personal choice and Christian willingness.

If some such plan, modified according as each might think best, were generally adopted, we are convinced a great deal of power, now entirely, or almost entirely, lying idle, might be utilized for the highest purposes.

THE London Missionary Society made an effort to secure the Rev. Charles Wilson, of Plymouth, for its Foreign Secretary. Mr. Wilson, however, declined the appointment. The post offered Mr. Wilson was made vacant by the death of Dr. Mullens.

THE McAll Missions in France, numbering thirty-two stations in Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux, and Boulogne, have been conducted without Church connection until the present time, but they have become so important that a committee has been appointed to take charge of them. This committee has decided to give each mission a church connection; each station will be placed under the direct patronage of some one of the Churches. The general meetings will be continued by Mr. McAll and his agents, and in addition to them a Bible class will be conducted by the pastor of the station.

DEPLORABLE accounts of the condition of the Orthodox Church are published in some of the Russian papers. According to these accounts, which are home made, and not those of prejudiced strangers, people are in all directions falling away from the Church and lapsing into dissent, and following some new prophet with doctrines of the most wonderful description. In one province a prophetess, Zeenic Ivanhoff, is preaching the abolition of marriage, and separation from the Church. In another, the curious sect of the Samobogs is running a wild career. The priests are powerless to stem the torrent, and people abandon themselves to the most extravagant theories.

IN a recent debate in the Prussian Diet on the Catholic question the Minister of Public Worship, Herr Von Puttkammer, who has been thought to favour a much milder policy than his predecessor, Dr. Falk, said the state, although it had been obliged to defend its rights, had never lost hope of seeing the end of hostilities. A compromise, however, could only be effected on the basis of existing legislation. There should be an end of dispute over principles, and more attention be given to facts. Herr Windthorst, the Catholic leader, hoped the negotiations between Bismarck and the Vatican would be brought to a successful conclusion. Unless they were, the Church was prepared to take up the cudgels again.

## LADIES' FRENCH EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY.

This Society, which has been in existence in Montreal for several years, and whose work is carried on in relation to the General Assembly's Board of French Evangelization and the French Presbyterian churches in that city, has lately opened a Mission Home for French Protestant women. In this Home the two Bible women employed by the Society reside and re-