

Our Foreign Missionary Enterprises.

Rev. Dr. McKay, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board (West) of the Canada Presbyterian Church, preached in Knox Church last Sabbath morning, presenting a brief but concise review of foreign mission work, and pointing out the urgent necessity there existing for an advance all along the line, in extending the work in the different mission fields, the urgent call for more missionaries, and the consequent urgency for increased contributions. He dealt with work among the Indians in the Northwest, the Chinese in Canada, and the missions in Formosa, Honan and Central India.

Mission work among the Indians is hopeful. Under the fostering care of the government their condition materially is substantially improving, and Christian education is having a beneficial influence on the young and rising generation of the tribes on the different reserves. Dr. McKay thinks the time has arrived when the wardenship of the government on the reserves should be materially changed and the wards of the nation thrown more on their own resources. Under the system maintained by the government—an undoubted absolute necessity in the earlier stages of our administration of the western country—they are treated as children and are in some respects better off than many of the immigrants settling in the Northwest.

Good work is being done among the Chinese in Canada. Wherever they have congregated in sufficient numbers to permit of Chinese Sunday schools being opened—especially in all the cities and larger towns. They are responding gratefully to the efforts made for their welfare and are contributing with wonderful liberality to Chinese mission work. Unfortunately the feeling against them in British Columbia is very strong, so much so that not a few professing Christians refuse to in any way aid mission work among them in that province. Whatever may be said of the Chinese problem as a political one, the fact is plain that we have a considerable number of Chinese in Canada, and more will undoubtedly come despite adverse legislation. It is therefore clearly our duty to give them the Gospel. They are "heathen at our doors," and unquestionably come within the Great Commission given by the Lord Jesus to his professed followers.

With regard to Honan, Dr. McKay stated that a recently received cablegram from Dr. McClure called for the return of the missionaries to Honan, so hopeful had the outlook become. The converts who survived the persecutions and massacres perpetrated by the Boxers, during the absence of the missionaries, manifested their fidelity by meeting regularly for worship and preaching the gospel to their fellow countrymen. Strange to say the Dowager Empress, whose opposition to reform proposed by the Emperor and his advisers precipitated the Boxer troubles, has issued an edict calling for the establishment of colleges in every province, for the purpose of teaching the Western civilization, and the churches and societies engaged in mission work in that country, will in all probability be called upon for teachers. It is a wonderful denouement. The hand of God is undoubtedly in it and the Canadian church should be ready to meet the emergency when a college is established in Honan.

The only place where a dark cloud is observable is in Central India, where another famine is threatened, owing to insufficient rains. Should such a disaster occur there will be grave danger of our missionaries breaking down under the strain, and the Church must be prepared to meet such an

emergency. The bright spot in all this is the upwards of two thousand children saved from the late famine who are being given a Christian education, many of whom are enrolled as church members, and who in a few years will form a Christian community which cannot fail to have a leavening influence for good in that section of India. This should prove an inspiration to Christians to redouble their efforts to promote the evangelization of India.

Speaking generally Dr. McKay pointed out that practically the entire heathen world was open to missionary enterprise, the fact furnishing a loud call to God's people in this highly favored land to "come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty"—and to contribute more abundantly of the means God has placed in their hands, so that prompt and energetic response may be given to the widespread Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us."

Thanksgiving—Topic for Nov. 24.

Scripture Reference: Isa. 25 : 1-8.

The Habit of Gratitude.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

It may be set down as a general rule well worth following, that no Christian grace is ours, however finely and beautifully it is exercised, until it is exercised unconsciously; until, that is, it has become a habit. So long as we must think about it, plan for it, watch ourselves regarding it, reinforce it with the observance of times and seasons, it is only a garment we put on, though a very lovely garment; it has not become a part of ourselves.

This is true of kindness, it is true of helpfulness, it is true of patience and courage and good cheer. It is especially true of gratitude. But we are fain to think that gratitude must be a spasmodic feeling, exercised only on special occasions, "When we have reason for it." We forget that we have reason for it all the time. Literally, there is never an instant in our lives, however dark that instant may seem, oppressed with sudden calamity, the loss of health, our own sickness or failure, the death of loved ones—not a single instant in which, if we were God's children, we should not feel like turning glad faces toward heaven, and crying happily out, "O God, how good Thou art to me!"

The merchant must keep a list of his debts to men and men's debts to him. Even more necessary is it for the Christian to keep a list of the debts he owes to God. Go over them often in your prayers. Heap them up. Mention them in minutest detail, since God gives them in such detail. He spends all the day giving them to you; should you not spend ten minutes thanking Him for them? Nay, write them down in a book. When you see a blind man, write down: "I thank God for my two eyes." Or a cross-eyed man, "I thank God that my two eyes are straight." Or a near-sighted man, "I thank God that I do not have to wear glasses." Keep up this custom, and enlarge upon it, and watch yourself, and see whether grumbling is not becoming less and less your sin, and gratitude more and more your instinct. Train yourself in gratitude as persistently as if it were one of the fine arts—for indeed it is a fine art, and perhaps the finest of them all.

Our Young People**Daily Readings.**

Mon.,	Nov. 18.—Thankfulness in the heart. Ps. 9 : 1-11
Tues.,	Nov. 19.—Rejoicing always. Phil. 3 : 1-10
Wed.,	Nov. 20.—The grateful household. Josh. 24 : 1-6, 14, 15
Thurs.,	Nov. 21.—Praise and life. Jas. 3 : 1-10
Fri.,	Nov. 22.—A thankful nation. Ps. 67 : 1-7
Sat.,	Nov. 23.—The spirit of gratitude. Eph. 5 : 15-21
Sun.,	Nov. 24.—Topic. Thanksgiving. Isa. 25 1-8

Sorrowful, Yet Rejoicing.

BY BELLE M. BRAIN.

To those whose portion for the year has been loss and disappointment, suffering and bereavement, Thanksgiving Day sometimes seems like mockery. But it should not. The children of God, bitter though their cups may be, have always cause for rejoicing. No matter how overwhelming our losses, we may, like the prophet Habakkuk (Hab. 3 : 17-19), "rejoice in the Lord and joy in the God of our salvation."

In our Christian Endeavor Thanksgiving service, some years ago, every heart was touched when one who had been sorely bereaved arose and said with deep emotion: "I cannot thank God, as some of you have done, for an unbroken family circle, but I can and do thank Him for the countless blessings of the year."

A Life of Service.

That high life which waits for us can only be a life of service. There is no heaven here or anywhere else but the heaven of service. "His servants shall serve Him." They rest from their labors, and yet they rest not day nor night. The labor of service is gone, because there is a perfect fitness and perfect surrender. They stand among those who do excel in strength. But an added fitness has been found and developed by the daily discipline of life on earth. We are here at school, to be fitted for the high position which we are to take by and by. We are here as apprentices, to learn the art of service. Our only safety is to surrender ourselves perfectly to God, and to accept earnestly the daily life. No grief, no loss, no stern discipline, no dreary failure, no misery of death, but shall one day find its compensation in that greatness for service which it shall have wrought out in us. To give ourselves up wholly to our God, to trust Him utterly, to be taught of the Lord, to keep step and time with Him, is our only safety. To lose the lesson and discipline of this life is to lose the glory of the life to come.—Pres. Banner.

The November number of Table Talk is the Thanksgiving number and full directions are given for the preparation of a Thanksgiving dinner. The description of "A Wedding Breakfast in Alaska" is interesting and amusing, telling of the queer customs that prevail there. "Old Fashioned Creole Menu for the Holidays" gives some noted Southern recipes. The illustrated cooking is as usual full of suggestion. "Table Talk" is an authority on culinary matters and fashions of the table, and ample copies may be obtained free by sending to Table Talk Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pa.