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Editorial Jottings.

THE time for the Union meetings is approaching. The Bond Street Church friends are making active preparations for entertainment. The Toronto friends generally are, in anticipation, preparing their welcome, and prayers arise for blessing. There are encouraging circumstances under which we shall this year meet. Our Missionary Society, in all human probability, will not have to face a heavy deficit. Our college has passed through changes which have at length brought it out into new relations, promising brighter days. An efficient principal has been secured, and a full list of students more than promised. Our Foreign Missionary societies are fast passing the incipient stage into, at least, the energy and hopefulness of youth. Many of our churches have been blessed with gracious seasons. We ought to "thank God and take courage." There are still some barren spots, still some lost ground to overtake, still a future looming that demands watchfulness, but we can raise another Ebenezer, and, resting for a moment, face that future with Christian confidence and hope.
Laus Deo. Vigilate!

ONE of the encouraging features of the church of to-day is the increasingly large number of young men in the colleges of the denominations who are offering themselves for mission work in the foreign field. We find it stated that the present year, judging from the impetus already given, is likely to see 2,500 volunteers. Since October of last year over 1,500 have been numbered. It is a matter of no small moment that our own college has felt the movement, and that there are more than one who have longings to follow Mr. Currie in his earnest work. Four students of Knox College, Toronto, have given their summer services to visit the congregations of the Presbyterian Churches

in the interest of Foreign Missions. The question now is not men, but means. The Lord of the harvest is pressing labourers into the field; let us importune for means. The gold is His. May we all realize the same.

WE see it stated that the wealthy Church of England raised, during the last twenty-five years, \$400,000,000 for Christian work, while England spent on strong drink \$16,000,000,000! Think of it. Are we following the same example?

GENERAL WILLOUGHBY, an American officer, who commanded the Hovas of Madagascar during the greater part of their late struggle with France, has written an article in the *Fortnightly*, in which he says that the Hovas, by their treaty with France, have lost nothing that they greatly value, and have preserved their independence. The treaty appears to have been practically a backdown on the part of France, which receives, it is true, a war indemnity of £400,000, but undertakes all the liabilities of the war, which double that sum. Gen. Willoughby concludes thus: "I cannot prophesy what years may bring to pass, but I am well assured, from my experience of the firmness of the Malagasy disposition, that France will never acquire a 'protectorate' over Madagascar."

A RESPECTED brother, whose heart, with our own, was set upon the late conference of brethren held in this city, feels that our remarks in the last issue reflect upon those who were most active in securing the same. This is a great mistake. The object was good; the arrangements, so far as the managers are concerned, were all that could reasonably be desired, and, with perhaps one exception, the spirit was fraternal. We believe, moreover, that were conferences more frequent among us we should find a much more living union than mere