

To the Reverend the Clergy and the Laity of the Church of England in Canada

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD :—Time in its yearly course has once more brought us to the period when we have to appeal to our people in behalf of what are called "Domestic Missions," *i.e.*, Missions within the Dominion of Canada, but outside the settled Dioceses of this Ecclesiastical Province.

As we examine carefully the present condition, and the needs, present and future, of Domestic Missions, we are driven to the conclusion that there never was a greater call for practical faith and prayer than at present. Past success has entailed the necessity for fresh efforts.

1. The first claim upon your sympathy and generous help is of course *our own missionary Diocese of Algoma*. Here there is much to encourage us. Its Mission Fund for carrying on the general work of the Church, indeed, was in arrears last year to the amount of \$3,200. But on the other hand we have the encouraging fact that the Episcopal Endowment Fund has now become available for the Bishop's stipend. This sets free the assessments hitherto levied for that purpose upon the other Dioceses of Eastern Canada. The Provincial Synod has appealed to these Dioceses to continue paying these assessments for the present, and to give them to the *Algoma Mission Fund*, out of which the missionaries of that Diocese are paid. We feel assured that all the Synods will cheerfully comply with this appeal, as several of them have already done. There is abundant evidence that the hearts of our people are with the loving and devoted Bishop who at the call of the Church has given himself to the work in Algoma; and we trust that your largely increased offerings on Sunday next will make it clear to him that he possesses in the fullest measure the confidence and sympathy of the Church.

Bishop Thorneloe asks, first, for annual contributions, to keep up for the future the work so well begun by his devoted predecessors. He next suggests that an Endowment Fund should be begun, so that the mission work may be permanently established. A third need, perhaps more urgent, for which he pleads, is that of a Superannuation Fund for aged and infirm clergy. Besides these greater matters, there are, of course, constant local needs, where the people are poor and churches have to be built or enlarged.

Lastly, there are the missions to the Pagan Indians, and the religious education of the Christian Indians in the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes—the latter for the moment in abeyance—which must be maintained and if possible enlarged. The work being done in the Shinwauk Home is reported by Bishop

Thorneloe to be of the most satisfactory character.

2. Passing, now, to *British Columbia and the Great West*, mention may be made first, of the *Diocese of New Westminster*, in which, besides the wants created by a growing white population, there are some 7,000 Chinese, with about the same number in the adjacent Diocese of Columbia. These natives of a great Pagan Empire have, in God's Providence, been brought to our shores, and are here isolated from many of the heathen influences which oppose their conversion in their old homes—for what purpose but that we should do our best to win them to the Gospel of the Son of God?

The development of the gold and other mining interests, in Kootenay especially, calls for missionaries to minister to the large bodies of men who are there being brought together. If this want be met at the present time to any adequate extent, it is likely that with the great increase of population, self-supporting parishes might speedily be formed.

3. The needs of the *Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land* are many and pressing. The Archbishop, in his appeal to the S. P. G. to postpone the final cessation of its grants, shews that their wants are in some cases the result of the rapid growth of railways, in the midst of a territory thinly peopled. To enter into detail, the Bishops of Moosonee, Athabasca, Mackenzie River, Selkirk, and Saskatchewan need help for their Indian Missions. The Indians form the majority of the population in those Dioceses. There are also some Esquimaux in Moosonee and Mackenzie River, and some whites in Chapieau (Diocese of Moosonee) and in Selkirk. In Calgary, Saskatchewan, and Qu'Appelle there are Missions for whites and Indians. The Indian Homes in Calgary require assistance. These are helped by government, but the Church is responsible for their maintenance.

In the Diocese of Rupert's Land itself, extensive Mission work is going on. The number of Missions is at present about 55, of which 12 are self-supporting. Of these 55, only 40 are served by clergymen, the remainder being worked by licensed laymen for a whole or part of the year. Everyone of these should, if possible, be under the charge of a clergyman, and this would require at least an annual sum of \$2,000.

It is well to observe at this stage, that two errors are prevalent among Canadian Churchmen; one, as to the extent of the Church population in this vast Diocese; the other, as to the sufficiency of their efforts to support their own Church.

In the ordinary scattered settlements the proportion of the Church population is about one-fourth or one-fifth of the whole. It is hard