

cause of missions but quite the contrary. The Foreign Missionary Society is evoking sympathy and help as it never did among us before. This cannot fail to have a good effect upon all christian life and effort in our churches, and it would be an unheard-of thing for zeal in the foreign work to interfere with the home Missionary enterprise. There may here or there be a thoughtful person who imagines that the foreign field has the strongest claim, and who therefore works exclusively for that, but such instances are very rare. The policy of killing the goose that lays the golden egg is not likely to be followed by many well-informed Congregationalists. They will understand that if we do not maintain in efficiency our home missionary work, there will soon be no function for our college, and if no home missionary work, no college, no church extensions. There will shortly be no foreign mission either. The home missionary work lies at the root of all our progress. We must have promising fields of labor for our young men when they do give themselves to the work of the christian ministry. We have suffered too much already in the loss of our own trained men. Why have they gone to other lands? Not because there was any lack of love for Canada or for Canadian work, but because there was not any prospect of work or of support in Canadian churches. We do wish to guard against a recurrence of such experience in the future. We can do so only by bringing up our missionary society, by placing it upon a financial basis, that will secure confidence and progress. The past three or four years have witnessed a revival not only of missionary zeal, but of many of our missionary churches, as well as the successful inauguration of several new churches. The missionary zeal had cooled, the income had fallen far behind former years and many churches were vacant for lack of means, and of men. There are very few vacancies to-day, only two or three within the bounds of the society's operations. It is likely we must be satisfied for the present to consolidate our work, and shut our ears to the invitations coming to us from many places. But I cannot for a moment admit that this course will be of long continuance. We must go forward. With an increasing population, and with vigorous and progressive churches all around us, a stand-still policy means stagnation and death. "Forward," must be our motto. We are not sent

#### A WARFARE AT OUR OWN CHARGES.

The work is not ours, but the Lord's. The resources are all in his hands, and will be put into ours if we ask and believe. Perhaps there has not been enough of this kind of effort. We have written and preached, and made appeals to men. It may be we have not been as importunate in our appeals to Him to whom belong the gold and silver. Humble, earnest, believing prayer will bring about marvellous results in this as in all other work we attempt for God. There is power in our churches to give very much more than they have ever done. They will do it when they become fully consecrated to Christ. I never care to solicit funds for God's cause from worldly people, or from cold and formal professors. The best use one can make of his opportunities with such is to lead them to the cross, and if we succeed we secure everything. It is sad to hear people talk of how much they do for the church or for the missionary society. A very poor reward they will

receive from these, not any wonder they complain of ingratitude and disappointment, but when we give and work for the Lord, there is joy, and a blessed reward. I think most of the churches could double their missionary collections, and not injure themselves by so doing. If they did we should be able to maintain our present mission churches, and respond to some urgent calls for help. The Ladies' Auxiliaries should come to our help in this important crisis, and the Sunday school children should lend a helping hand; and they would, if the matter was properly brought before them. It is wonderful what some have done during the past year.

I am carefully considering a policy for our society, perhaps shall have it sufficiently matured to state it in my next, but just now I suppose I will soon reach my limits, and I wish to refer to a few places which I visited during the holidays.

#### TORONTO, YORKVILLE.

Spent the morning of Sunday here. Congregation good, much larger than on my former visit. They appeared to take a very lively interest in our missionary work, promised to assist to the best of their ability. Arrangements are being made to enlarge the church building, just adding a wing equal to that of the present. The Lord has been blessing the work during the year.

#### TORONTO, ZION.

I had only time to look at the Sunday school during opening exercises, but was surprised and gratified to see the large number of young people. The half of the pupils seemed to belong to Bible classes, or at least were big enough to be in such. I judge from appearances of the school there is a promising field, and much encouragement here. Zion in years gone by was one of the best supporters of our missionary society, contributing as much as *four hundred dollars* a year to the funds. Hope she will help us now.

#### TORONTO, WESTERN.

I addressed the Sunday school. The audience room was nearly full. The school is a living institution in this church, and from all I could learn during my short-time visit, the entire work of the church is most encouraging. The school promised to do something for the society and so will the church.

#### PARKDALE.

Here I spent the evening of Sunday, preaching in the beautiful new church. It is situated in a part of the suburbs that is building up fast, and in the near future it will be comprised within the city limits. The sequel I think, clearly justifies the effort to establish a church here, and Mr. Duff deserves much praise for his persevering and self-denying efforts. It has been hard work, is still, but it will be a monument of which he will have no reason to be ashamed in coming years. Early on Monday morning through your kind attentions, Mr. Editor, I found myself "homeward bound," for Christmas holidays. As usual, they were "working holidays." This time in addition to the ordinary work of every day I turned in with my esteemed successor, Mr. McFadyen, and assisted in a series of "children's services." They were well attended, and the word of the Lord took effect on many young hearts. We had just a delightful time, and although I was much more weary leaving home, on New Years night, than when I arrived ten days before, I was profoundly thankful to