

REPORT
OF THE
Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1887.

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RETROSPECT.

It is recorded of the Woman's Board of Missions of Boston that it had its origin in the Mother's Prayer Meetings held at that time all over New England. It seemed a natural and fitting thing that these mothers, as they met to pray for the salvation of their own children, should look with pitying eyes on the heathen and stretch out hands of help to those "who sat in darkness and the shadow of death."

In no such way was the Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions brought into being, yet, no less truly, can we trace the guiding hand of Him who leads his people to pray and plan for the coming of his Kingdom. When the Canada Congregational Foreign Missionary Society, which held, this year, its sixth annual meeting, was organized the hope was expressed that the women and children would be enlisted, and Auxiliaries and Mission Bands formed, and this was in some measure the case. The subject, however, came up in a more practical form in the minds of the ladies, when one of our Canadian daughters, Miss Macallum, went out to Turkey as a Missionary. The question was then asked: Why have we not a Woman's Board in connection with our own churches to send out and sustain Missionaries in the Foreign field? Then Mr. Currie's visit to the churches stirred up unusual interest in the Missionary cause, and it was felt by some that now was the time to move in the matter. Preliminary steps were taken and a meeting was held in a quiet country manse; as a result a constitution was drawn up, and arrangements made for a meeting to be held in Ottawa, in June, 1886, in connection with the Congregational Union. This Provisional Board, appointed by the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, met in the parsonage of the Ottawa Church, on Thursday