

# Canadian Missionary Link.

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## HOME ON FURLOUGH.

During the first years that the Canadian Baptists carried on mission work in India, it was discovered that it was impossible for our missionaries to stay in India for a period of more than seven or eight years at a time without injury to their own health and consequent loss to the work. It has been the policy, therefore, of both the General Board and its auxiliary, the Women's Board, to grant leave of absence extending over a year and six months to each one of the missionaries after seven years of continuous service. In doing this they give to the missionary a furlough allowance (in the case of the Women's Board four-fifths of the regular salary), and pay their travelling expenses to and from India, which, as most of them return to Canada, approximates \$700.00.

Now, the funds for our Foreign Mission work are gathered often with much difficulty and at considerable sacrifice from the people for the purpose of sending the Gospel message to the heathen of India. How, then, does the Board justify itself in year after year spending this large amount of the hard-gathered Circle money in something which does not touch the heathen of India directly at all?

They justify themselves by only one reason. The missionaries are brought home for one and only one purpose, and that is, that they may regain lost strength in a more favorable climate, and renew their touch with a Christian land, and—and—so be better able to successfully carry on in India the work for which they are appointed.

What is the point of all this? The point is, that they are not taken from

telling the message of salvation to those in India who will probably lose their one chance of hearing by their absence, for the purpose of telling the story of their work to people who already have more opportunities to know of it than they can improve. This amount of money, which for each furlough would support two missionaries in India for a year, is not taken from its work there that our missionaries may travel hither and thither raising a much smaller amount of money from the Circles which they address,—in short, they are not brought home to be travelling secretaries for our Mission Board, or organizers for our Bands, or financial agents for our Circles.

Now, all this is not to say that our missionaries shall be silenced when here and not allowed to say a word concerning their work. It is a very happy thing that the presence of one who is serving in the front ranks may bring much inspiration, information and renewal of energy to those with whom they meet, and the women and children in our churches owe a very great debt to many missionaries, who have done a large service to our work, and done it, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, at a sacrifice to the very thing for which they came home—the renewing of their strength. But it is to say that we must not depend on them—must not count that as a necessary thing in our work.

But some Programme Committee is wrinkling its brows and saying: "But what are we to do, if we can't have a missionary? How are we to create interest among the women and children?" We beg to say that you can do it, if you will. It will mean more