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CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATIONS.

While the growth of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, during the last twenty years, has been such as to raise it to a position inferior to that of no other Church in the Province in respect of moral influence, and while, with the increase of the means at their disposal, our people's views of their obligation in reference to the maintenance of gospel ordinances and the extension of the Church are much improved, a glance at our financial returns will show that we are very far from doing our whole duty in the matter of *giving* for the cause of Christ.

Our first and great aim should ever be the attainment of a higher degree of genuine Christian principle, which implies a growing appreciation of Christ and sense of obligation to Him, such as ensure greater readiness and cheerfulness in practising self-denial for his sake. But we are persuaded that there is such an amount of sound principle pervading the Church as would be productive of greatly increased liberality, and place the Church in a very honourable position, if only a more systematic mode of giving were introduced into our congregations.

The formation of Congregational Missionary Associations we regard as a very important step in a right direction. Such associations have been in operation for some years in connection with the congregations of one of the branches of our united Church; and we are glad to see that the movement begun by the Presbytery of Guelph, last year is now bearing fruit in the enlarged missionary contributions of several congregations. Our people are, no doubt, in many cases, sadly wanting in their duty to their ministers; but it would be a great mistake to suppose that, in these cases, the formation of Missionary Associations resulting, as it always does, in the increase of missionary contributions, would have anything but a good influence in relation to ministerial support. Apart from this, however, our returns show that bad as is the state of things in many cases in reference to ministers' stipends, it is still worse in various instances in reference to the aid given to the missions of the church. The missionary contributions are in many cases incredibly small compared with the undoubted ability of congregations as indicated by the amount of their contributions for congregational purposes. Some of our largest and wealthiest congregations have a bad "pre-eminence" in this respect, instead of being foremost in