

months will not elapse before gigantic armies are confronting one another, and the dread scourge of war be let loose. If the Almighty Ruler of the universe in His infinite wisdom permits contending nations to join in the shock of battle, we may be sure that the conflict of the nations will be overruled to hasten the coming of the better and more peaceful days when the kingdom of God, the reign of righteousness, shall be established; when the nations shall not learn the art of war any more.

In this goodly land of peace, plenty and progress, let us enjoy with thankful hearts the blessings bestowed, and, while desiring their continuance, may the reflection that God having sent His Son, the Saviour Christ, into the world, we ought to do what we can that others may share the blessings He came to bestow. To its ever-extending circle of readers, old and young, THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN extends most cordially the compliments of the season, and the wish that the blessing of God may abide with our Church and country.

A COUPLE OF CIRCULARS.

FROM the Home Mission executive the following circulars have been issued. They are entitled to careful perusal, and it is confidently expected that the Church will not be behind in contributing all that is required by the Home Mission Committee for the vigorous prosecution of the important work with which it is entrusted. It is no less confidently expected that the liberality of the Church will this year supply all that is needed to meet the claims of the Augmentation Scheme. The circulars speak for themselves.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE (WESTERN SECTION).

The many appeals already issued by Conveners of important Schemes have led me to postpone the annual circular in behalf of Home Missions to a somewhat later date than usual. I feel, however, that this great work of our Church is so deeply rooted in the affections of office-bearers and members that it needs hardly any appeal to call forth their prayers and their liberal contributions.

This year (1886-87) the sum of \$36,000 will be required for Home Missions, in addition to the \$30,000 needed for Augmentation. Of this sum \$23,000 is expended upon Manitoba and the North West alone. For British Columbia some \$4,000 or \$5,000 will be required, leaving only about \$8,000 for the older Provinces. Unless, indeed, our own contributions are supplemented by the kind donations of the British Churches, it is to be feared that the expenditure for the year will exceed the revenue.

Since last General Assembly the new Presbytery of Columbia has been erected, and several additional missionaries sent to that distant Province. Other names are before the Committee for appointment. The salaries of those missionaries are, of necessity, guaranteed for the first year by the Committee, as the fields are new, and the amount that the people can give not easily determined. Besides this, the travelling expenses of the missionaries and their wives, to their respective fields of labour, have to be borne by the committee. The prospects in British Columbia for our Church were never so good as they are to-day, if we can only respond to the urgent calls that are made for additional missionaries.

The number of mission stations reported by Presbyteries last June, as under the care of the committee, was 650, with an average attendance every Sabbath of 27,112, and a membership of 8,520. These stations contribute themselves the sum of \$37,845 for the support of ordinances.

I need add nothing more. Every well wisher of the Presbyterian Church will, I feel certain, make the cause of Home Missions prominent in his prayers and in his apportionment of money, that our beloved Zion may not only maintain the honourable place she has already attained, but go forward to still greater conquests.

I call special attention to Mr. Macdonnell's circular on behalf of Augmentation, which is herewith appended.

WILLIAM COCHRANE.

Convenor of Home Mission Committee.

Brantford, Dec. 7, 1886.

N.B.—Contributions from congregations, both for Home Missions and Stipend Augmentation, should be remitted as promptly as possible to Rev. Dr. Reid, Post Office Drawer 2,607, Toronto.

AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

MY DEAR SIR,—In view of the full setting forth of the claims of the Augmentation Fund in the pastoral issued by the Moderator of the General Assembly, it is unnecessary that I should do more than ask you to bring the matter before your people, and take such steps as you may deem best in order to secure a general contribution to this object.

There are this year 159 congregations in the Western Section of the Church receiving aid, and the whole amount required is \$30,000. This amount has been apportioned by the Committee among Presbyteries, in the hope that each Presbytery will endeavour to secure the amount asked from it. It rests with ministers and Sessions to adopt plans for the actual raising of the money in the several congregations. May I rely on your hearty co-operation in this matter?

There will be no difficulty in raising \$30,000 if each congregation realizes its obligation to contribute its fair share. When I remind you, however, that the total receipts from congregations last year were under \$24,000, you will see that there is need of increased liberality if the honourable

position which the Church has taken on this question of ministerial support is to be maintained.

Kindly bear in mind that the Augmentation Fund, while administered by the Home Mission Committee, is entirely distinct from the fund for Home Mission work.

Should you wish to use special envelopes, they may be obtained from the secretary, Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal. I am faithfully yours,

D. J. MACDONNELL,

Convenor of Sub-Committee on Augmentation.

Toronto, Dec. 27, 1886.

Books and Magazines.

THE HOME AND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT. Seymour Eaton, editor; Thomas Gibson, business manager. (Detroit and Toronto).—This is a bright educational monthly, beautifully illustrated and beautifully printed.

MANITOBA COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Winnipeg: Jas. E. Steen).—The spirit of enterprise is characteristic of the West. The young college of Manitoba is determined not to be outrun by her older competitors in the East. The *Manitoba College Journal* is a proof of this. We welcome with pleasure the first number of the second volume of this most creditable literary enterprise.

JESUS. By C. F. C. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs, Willard Tract Depository).—This is a little volume of verse in which a number of devout spiritual meditations find expression. It was written by a lady who, from a singularly happy station, was called upon to pass through successive and sore trials during which she found consolation and support in the contemplation of the Saviour and His truth. It may prove a blessing to others.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat).—The noted Episcopal preacher, Dr. Phillips Brooks, of Boston, supplies a suggestive sermon. The illustrations are a portrait of Phillips Brooks and a view of Trinity Church, Boston. "Leading Thoughts of Sermons" are given by Drs. Morgan Dix, William M. Taylor, Moses Hoge, R. S. MacArthur, Henry M. Scudder, and Rev. T. B. Meyer, B.A. The other contents of the number afford profitable and instructive reading.

FOUR THOUSAND SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS. For the use of parents and teachers. (London, Eng.: Samuel Bagster & Sons; Toronto: S. R. Briggs, Willard Tract Depository).—Not only those for whom this excellent little work was primarily designed, but every one who uses it will find it a valuable help to the clear understanding of the sacred Scriptures. Its general use would tend to dispel much of the ignorance of Bible truth that in many cases unhappily prevails.

READINGS FROM MILTON. With an introduction, by Bishop Henry White Warren. (Boston: Chautauqua Press, Rand, Avery & Co.).—This is a handy and handsome book, including Bishop Warren's critical introduction and biographical sketch, the whole of "Paradise Lost," the "Hymn on the Nativity," "Lycidas," "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso," and a cluster of Milton's incomparably beautiful sonnets. It is safe to say that whoever reads carefully this volume will have a clear idea of the greatest English poet, and will have enriched his mind with some of the grandest and most exalted ideas in our language.

RECEIVED:—KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY FOR December (Toronto: James Murray & Co.), DOMINION ALMANAC for 1887, illustrated (Toronto: Toronto Lithographing Co.).

"PROBATIONER" CORRECTED.

MR. EDITOR,—Permit me to correct an error or two in the communication of "Probationer" in your last issue.

1. I am not Convenor, as he states, of the General Assembly's Committee on Supply and Distribution. The Rev. Mr. Laidlaw, of Hamilton, was appointed to that position and still occupies it.

2. Those probationers who have sent in their names to the Committee for appointments to Presbyteries are not "Dr. Torrance's men." They are men who have consecrated themselves to serve God in the Gospel of His Son, and given themselves to be servants of His Church.

3. It may be presumed that "Probationer" is correct in the judgment he has formed of himself. He is best qualified to come to a conclusion in the matter.

ROBERT TORRANCE.

Guelph, December 10, 1886.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

AN ANECDOTE OF DR. MOFFATT.

The following instructive anecdote was told by the late Rev. Robert Moffatt, D.D., at one of the London Missionary Society meetings:

He and his companions had travelled in the interior all day and night, weary and without food. They approached a village inhabited by the Coraumas, who were accustomed to bloodshed and rapine. An individual who met them warned them against entering the village; they would do so at their peril. He pointed them to the heights beyond the town where he said they could sleep for the night. We tied about us the fasting girdle to prevent the gnawing of hunger. We looked at each other, for we were hungry and thirsty and fatigued beyond measure. At last an individual came. We asked for water. It was refused. I offered two or three buttons remaining on my jacket for a little milk. It was refused with scorn. It was evident that something was brewing in the minds of the people, and we had good reason to be alarmed. We lifted up our hearts to God. There we sat; and as we gazed saw a woman descend from the heights. She approached with a vessel in her hand and a bundle of wood. The vessel contained milk. Having set them down she immediately retired, and shortly came back, bringing a vessel of water in one hand and a leg of mutton in the other. She sat herself down, and cut up the meat. We asked her name, and if there was any relative of hers to whom we had shown any kindness; but she answered not a word. I again asked her to tell to whom we were indebted; and after repeating the question three or four times, she replied: "I know whose servants you are, and I love Him who hath told me, 'He that giveth a cup of cold water to one of My disciples, shall in no wise lose his reward.'" Her words seemed to glow, while she wept profusely to see one of the servants of Christ. On inquiring into her history I found she was a solitary lamp burning in that village. I asked her to tell me how she had kept the light of God alive in her soul. She drew from her bosom a Testament, and, holding it up, said: "That is the fountain from which I drink—that is the oil which keeps my lamp burning in this dark place!" I looked at the book; it was a Dutch Testament, printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was given her by a missionary when she left school; and it was that book that was the means of her conversion, and had kept alive her piety, without any teaching, save that of the Holy Ghost, or any Christian fellowship except communion with God. "He that goeth forth weeping bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

MR. MARION OLIVER, ov. medical missionary to India, having sailed recently from Liverpool by steamship *Persia* for Bombay, her arrival in India is looked forward to with much pleasure by all our missionaries, particularly by Dr. Beatty, who is greatly in need of assistance.

THE following, written by Miss Lorimer, of the Ladies' Missionary Society connected with the Free Church of Scotland, applies as well to the ladies' societies of this country as if it had been written for them. We have the workers ready and anxious to go, if we could send them. Our income is far below what it should be, and what it would be if only all our congregations would give, little or much, according to their means. We should then be able to have the happiness of responding to the applications. It is just the blessing and success which have attended the work that cause the need for increased supplies; and is not that a cheering state of matters? This is true woman's work, woman's mission to women, and in every congregation there are women whose duty and privilege it is thus to take part in it. Truly we women of Scotland have received freely. let us give.

UNION Seminary, New York, has celebrated the completion of the first half century of its existence. The venerable and accomplished Dr. Hitchcock presided, and Dr. George L. Prentiss was the orator of the occasion. The career of this institution has been eminently successful. From a small beginning it has risen to great usefulness, and exercises a wide influence. It numbers men of well-known reputation among its professors, and many of its alumni now occupy prominent and influential positions.