

# Canadian Missionary Link.

Published in the interests of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Societies of Canada.

VOL. XXXVIII.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1913.

No. 5

## WILL THE CIRCLES RESPOND?

On another page of this issue, appears a letter from Mrs. Trotter, one of the Vice-Presidents of our Women's Foreign Society, in which is stated most clearly the trying position in which we as a Society, and as Circles, have found ourselves. It was not that the Board did not heartily approve of the action of the General Board in raising the scale of salaries. It was not that there was a dissenting voice as to the desirability of our falling in with the plan and placing our missionaries on the same footing as those under the General Board. Those possibilities did not constitute the problem. It was simply, as Mrs. Trotter has so clearly shown, that last year's income was not large enough to have covered the additional expense that would be involved in such a forward movement (for we believe it is one), and the Board had itself ruled that the income of the past year should determine the amount of the estimates for the coming year. It seemed that the only possible way was to leave things as they are for this year, state the case as clearly and forcibly as possible to the women, ask for an advance in the regular income, and then next autumn see if the giving showed that the women wanted to do this thing.

But it was not so easy as it sounds to "leave things as they are." That meant that what our General Board had deemed wise and right was being refused by us, an Auxiliary Board. It meant that we of all the Women's Boards concerned, were the only ones

to say, "Can't." And it meant that the missionaries for whom we and we alone are responsible, would be the only ones on the whole field of Canadian Missions left out of the advance.

Many times during the last years, emergencies have arisen in our work, and special appeals have been issued to the Circles which have almost always resulted in the emergency being fully met. But such an appeal and such a response would be quite useless in this case, because it is not an emergency which, once provided for, will not occur again. It is an increase and a permanent increase in our regular expenditure, and can be met only by an increase and a permanent increase in our regular income.

This income comes from the Circles, and it now remains for these Circles and for the individual women in the Circles to say what shall be done about the whole matter. Mrs. Trotter has written for the Board and has given a clear and forceful presentation of the case, both as to the problem and as to the hopes of the Board concerning the Circles. And it goes without saying, that this thing must be done, if done at all, without sacrificing to the slightest extent the interest in, and giving to, the other branch of our Circle work,—Home. We are Union Circles and as such, are pledged to advance along both lines. If the Foreign Board has problems, so has the Home.

But,—our question now is, what is each Circle going to do to meet this new need. Will the Circles respond?