

the people of these Islands, now that he has so effectually begun a good work in them and has so clearly shown by their means how the last may become first in His Kingdom. It has, besides, been the beginning of a missionary spirit in Canada and Australia, which has developed in many other directions.

The influence of Foreign Missions at home is also an important consideration. In Nova Scotia the New Hebrides Mission was as life from the dead, as I had occasion to know in visiting different parts of the Province a few years after Dr. Geddie left. Congregations which had felt no practical interest in anything beyond their own limits were soon aglow with zeal in the work in the New Hebrides, and finding new openings for Christian activity in connection with it, and felt besides a new stimulus to Christian work at home.

The co-operation also with other churches in Scotland and Australia in Foreign Mission work had enlarged their sympathies and their field of perception.

New ideas of Christian obligation to the unsaved both at home and abroad took root, and new hopefulness as to every kind of Christian effort. In later times these influences have been extending throughout Canada, and they will extend deeper in proportion to the energy and vitality of missionary work.

Nor must we limit the influence of a man like Geddie, to the present time. In the kingdom of Christ the good that men do lives after them, and may go on growing and extending till the end of time. This is the reason why our Lord could not indicate to his too impatient disciples who should have the first places in the future Kingdom. The fruit of a missionary's work goes on from age to age, and its true value and amount cannot be made up till the final reckoning, and then only by the omniscient Judge.

But we have also here, a lesson of humility and high resolve. In the last fifty years, our country has been greatly blessed with peace and prosperity. It has increased much in wealth and population. God in his Providence has been opening up great portions of the non-Christian world to the Bible and to Missions Facilities for travel have been immensely increased. Many young men and women are offering themselves for the work. Can we truly say that, on the eve of the twentieth century since Christ gave His Great Commission, we are taking advantage of our opportunities. Surely in view of the history of the little movement of half a century ago, we should be prepared in God's strength to strive after greater and better things.

Can we, whose souls are lighted  
With wisdom from on high,  
Can we, to men benighted,  
The Lamp of Life deny?

## OUR MISSION IN BRITISH GUIANA

By OUR MISSIONARY, REV. J. B. CROPPER.

For the RECORD.

On Sabbath, 1st Nov., 1896. I received in the name of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the congregation and mission station of Better Hope; and opened our connection with the Colony.

It was a glorious tropical Sabbath day, warm and bright,—rather too warm, when exposed to the sun, for comfort, but a fresh breeze tempered the heat and made it bearable.

In the morning, a Sabbath School was visited on an adjoining estate; and at 11 o'clock in the forenoon a large congregation assembled in the Church. This was the black and colored section of the congregation whose service is conducted in English. The Rev. Mr. Slater, whom I was to succeed, led, by request, the devotions, and conducted the opening exercises; and then introduced to the people their new minister. He spoke of the great pleasure he had in welcoming the Canadian Mission, and in graceful and fatherly language commended their new pastor to the people.

It was no easy matter for me to speak with composure on such an occasion. There had been, previously, considerable expectation with regard to the coming of the Canadian Mission; and evidently much is expected to result from its entering upon work in the Colony.

The retiring minister had been forty years in the ministry; and was not merely leaving his congregation, but retiring altogether from active service. For ten years had he ministered to the people he was addressing—and a most faithful and devoted ministry it had been. My first acquaintance with him had been many years before. I was then only a child; but the occasion and circumstances were such as to leave with me a permanent and vivid recollection of a man whom I have ever since continued to hold in high esteem.

As, therefore, the tall, spare figure stood erect in the pulpit, with ruddy face and silver locks, and spoke of his successor, it was very affecting; and it was a very difficult task for me, when he came down, to enter the pulpit he had just told me was mine, and address the people of my first charge. I felt as though I was receiving a command in succession to a retiring veteran; and the thought uppermost in my mind then, as indeed it had been more than once before, was "who am I and what is my house that thou hast brought me thus far?"

At the close of the service the Sacrament was dispensed by Mr. Slater, who charged the people to "encourage" their young minister. His reference to Joshua being encouraged when called upon to succeed the great hero-leader of Israel's hosts seemed to me fitting.