

intended to send out and support a missionary in Japan, but just at present a suitable man for the work is not in view, and the Society is wisely waiting for clear Providential indications before taking action. The Rev. R. Whittington, M.A., pointed out that the Society could accomplish a wider work by providing for the training of a number of native candidates for the ministry, than by sending out a single representative of their own. This suggestion is deserving of careful consideration by the College Societies. Some sixty or seventy dollars a year will support a student during his College course in Tokyo, and from two to three hundred dollars a year will support him in the active work. Thus four or five native missionaries can be supported as easily as one married missionary sent from this country; and although a limited number of foreign missionaries will be needed for years to come, to guide and supervise the work, yet the evangelization of Japan will be accomplished chiefly through native agency.

ANOTHER TESTIMONY.

WE are permitted to print the following letter from a member of the Dominion Parliament. It will be read with interest, as an unsolicited testimony to the value of our mission work among the Indians:—

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 25th April, 1892.

REV. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, D.D.,

Missionary Secretary, Toronto, Ont.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—For a number of years I have had frequent opportunities of visiting and becoming acquainted with the Indians on the Alnwick reserve, where you have a most interesting and flourishing mission and school. The last time I was there, now nearly two months ago, I was struck with the many evidences of progress and improvement in the condition of this people. My interest had previously been aroused by a number of circumstances, some arising out of my political correspondence on their affairs, and the discussion of their interests with the efficient land Indian agent, Mr. John Thackery, also the Chief and members of the band, and by items of news in the daily press respecting school work of the mission. It is my duty to let you know some of the good results flowing from the mission work you are carrying on there under the immediate superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Lawrence.

One of the most significant facts is that drunkenness, instead of being characteristic, is now almost entirely eradicated. Much credit for this is due to the watchful pastoral care and faithful instruction of your good missionary, and much to the rigid enforcement of the law against all offenders by the indefatigable Indian agent. Habits of industry, thrift and self-respect are now more manifest. A rapidly increasing number are now tilling their lands. "They now raise twenty times as much grain as they did eight years ago." These are the words of the Indian agent, who also informed me "the children are from 200 to 300 per cent. better than when the Rev. John Lawrence first came to Alderville, now four years ago." "It is my duty," said the Indian agent, "to visit the school once each month, conse-

quently, I know something about it." There are some remarkable facts worth mentioning respecting these schools. The *Montreal Witness* opened a competition to encourage young people in composition and the study of literature. Prizes were offered to the public school children of the Dominion for the best stories of events of actual occurrence in Canada. Two of these were won by the pupils of the Indian school, as entitled to the county prizes, Miss Franklin, an Indian girl, taking the first prize. Then when all these stories from all parts of the Dominion were published in the *Witness*, week after week, three prizes were offered and awarded by the votes of the readers of the *Witness*. When these votes were counted, it was found that Miss Franklin's story had received the highest number, and that written by Mr. Arthur Lawrence, the son of the missionary, the second highest. Another competition was held granting prizes for the best budget of stories from a school of the fifty standing highest in the previous competition. In this contest the mission school came out first! It also was again awarded the first county prize for the county of Northumberland. This prize was a magnificent engraving of Her Majesty the Queen, which I saw hanging over the Chief's chair in the council hall.

It is but simple justice to the Rev. Mr. Lawrence to say that, under Providence, he has been chiefly instrumental in effecting this advancement. I have the testimony of the local Indian agent, Mr. Thackery, J.P., to confirm my opinion. In a recent letter, he says, "The Rev. John Lawrence is a painstaking and efficient school teacher, and tries in every way to advance the children under his charge. In fact, I never knew a man more anxious, or one who works harder. Last year one of his pupils passed the entrance examination to the high schools, and he is preparing four more for the present year. He is a good preacher, and I believe that he is faithful in his pastoral duties also."

Pardon me for troubling you, if at too great length, but I felt that you would be interested in my observations of the progress of your work in this mission, and I have pleasure in bearing testimony to the successful labors of a most worthy and devoted missionary.

I have the honor to be

Yours very faithfully,

GEO. GUILLET.

THOSE PATIENT AND PASSIONLESS STATISTICS.

BY REV. W. HARRISON.

IN looking over the reports of the General and also the Women's Missionary Societies for 1890-1, our thought was stirred more than usual as we scanned the pages of figures as they met the eye as leaf after leaf was turned. At first the process threatened us with a period of unexceptional dullness as the wearisome succession passed before us. No brilliant dash of eloquent address, no words of touching pathos or thrilling adventure redeemed the massive monotony of those three hundred pages of dreary figures. To marshal them with exactness, the finest capital of human patience has again and again been well nigh bankrupt, and the exasperation of approaching despair has not unfrequently made sad havoc with the peace and amiability of the most benign and brave officials as they have toiled hour after hour at their uncongenial task. Figures, figures, everywhere, until the most heroic gaze is conquered and subdued by the apparent soulless and audacious page! No poet has yet had the daring to build his magic verse from any inspiration drawn from your charmless presence as you stand in silence in that desert of your own. No witchery