

for a new church, at one station, is already on the ground, and another church is to be extensively repaired.

Nor is money all that these people have given to the service of God. Two of their number have, during the last year, gone to the foreign field, and a third is now in course of training for that work.

How can such liberality and consecration to God's service be accounted for? Last year was one of unusual depression in the business world, and a large number of congregations, rather than increasing their contributions, allowed them to fall off, so that the various church schemes suffered much from want of financial support. Here was a congregation that increased its givings by well-nigh one thousand dollars. There is but one solution to the whole matter. The Spirit of God has opened the hearts of this people to the needs of the benighted and superstitious world, and pastor and flock have labored zealously in faith and self-denial for the advancement of the kingdom.

In no other way can this work be done, and the church schemes successfully carried out. Let a people be thoroughly consecrated to God, and it will require much more than the depression of 1894 to call a halt in missionary effort. Is there any less display amongst our population in raiment, means of conveyance, sources of amusement and household furnishings than in former years? We rather think not. On the contrary, there is a decided advance. Are times somewhat harder? God's work must suffer, our own comfort must not be interfered with under any consideration. We do not in so many words say so, but it is nevertheless true.

We have heard again and again that the Church is, as yet, only playing with missions. There has been little or no sacrifice on the part of her members. Has trade been dull, produce low and money difficult to obtain, retrenchment

has begun by robbing God rather than practising Christian self-denial. How can we look for God's blessing under such conditions as these? Hear His words as He seeks through the inspired prophet to lead His ancient people to a sense of duty. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now, herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

God has in all ages been true to His promises. Sacred history abounds with illustrations confirmatory of this, and presents us instances without number of genuine sacrifice and self-denial well worthy of our imitation. The people are not wholly responsible for lacking missionary spirit and failing to profit by noble examples such as have been brought under our notice. Pastors are much to blame. Is it not true that all congregations failing to respond to the Assembly's appeal for increased liberality are congregations whose pastors lack missionary fire? Are they not congregations in connection with which, year in and year out, little or nothing is heard of missions save the bare statement—and that, often in an apologetic way—that a collection will be taken up for the schemes of the Church. Is it not to be feared that self has much to do with his failure to emphasize that part of public worship which consists of giving of our substance. Away with anxiety about the manse, and fears of personal inconvenience should the usual stipend not be forthcoming. The Psalmist says, "I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." "Seek first the kingdom of God, and these things shall be added unto you," otherwise, the stipend will diminish and little or no success will mark the undertakings of the Church. The Lunenburg and Pleasant Valley