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THE MISSIONARY MEETINGS OF 1867-8.

We publish on another page the first list of missionary meetings for the coming season, and will take the opportunity to offer a few suggestions in relation to these appointments.

So far as we are aware, there does not exist, in the Congregational Churches out of Canada, an organisation at all approaching to our own, in its voluntariness and completeness, for obtaining contributions for home missions. In the United States, an agent or secretary is usually appointed, at a salary, for each State, to superintend both the missionary work and financial collections. In England, county associations attend to the missions within their bounds, but collecting is left very much to the zeal of the several pastors, stimulated by special appeals at the association meetings. The amounts heretofore given have generally been wretchedly small, but under the stirring appeals and encouraging liberality of the treasurer and secretary of the general Home Missionary Society, have lately increased considerably. But a yearly visit to every Church, large and small, independent or aid-receiving—almost to every station—by deputations consisting of the pastors of the district, with the occasional valued help of a lay brother, familiar enough on this field in other bodies, is a new thing under the sun in Congregationalism.

There are two ways of looking at this matter, "as you view it." In one aspect, it seems too bad that these contributions should need so much pleading for and going after. Christian liberality *ought* to come forth spontaneously. There ought to be a regular setting-apart for religious and benevolent objects, an intelligent distribution of the amount among the several causes, and punctual payment at regular seasons without solicitation. The dunning and diplomacy that are often resorted to, and said to be necessary, to secure charitable contributions, are so degrading to a cause that bears our great Master's name, that we are sometimes tempted to fly off to the other extreme. The success of George Müller's Orphan Houses in Bristol, by whom over a million pounds have been received without direct application to a single donor, daily wants being laid in faith before God in prayer, is cer-