

Mission Field.

THE financial statement of the Board of Home Missions, United States, shows a grand total of receipts from all sources of \$111,488.30. This covers all receipts from April 1st to July 1st. The grand total for the corresponding period in '93 was \$106,114.21; a gain, this year, of \$5,374.09. However, that is the total. There has been a loss of \$2,725.14 in gifts from the churches for the present quarter as compared with a twelve-month ago. Specified, the gifts for the past three months have been: from the church collections, \$36,945.57, from the ladies' societies, \$37,331; from legacies, \$30,661.53; from miscellaneous sources, \$8,050.20. The loss in church collections was noted. In all other gifts there has a gain—from the ladies' societies, \$2,298.90; from legacies, \$1,100.59; from miscellaneous sources, \$1,699.74.

Foreign Missions.

Following is a paper read by Mrs. A. T. Smith, Portage la Prairie, at a recent meeting of the W.F.M.S. at Brandon.

This is the age of Foreign Mission work. The church, by whatever name it may be called is more alive to her privilege and duty in missionary work, than ever before. Just as the little stream, starting in the mountain, gains swiftness and power from its tributaries, so shall missionary work widen and strengthen until it shall cover the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea. Yet there are some enjoying all the privileges of the Gospel, who are indifferent to this great work of the Church, and some, we might almost say, are opposed to it. If we all could for a little while sit at the feet of Him, who was "The first foreign missionary," every heart which loves Him would beat in sympathy with foreign missionary work. Jesus is the example and founder of all missionary work. What a foreign place this poor, weary, sin-sick earth must have seemed to Him, after the glories of Heaven. Think of His life and agonising death, that He might bring the aliens and those who were afar off, nigh by His precious blood. Jesus procured salvation for every creature, but the grand plan of salvation cannot be complete, until every creature knows of that salvation. If we love Christ, we must love to do His will, and His will is that the Gospel shall be preached to every creature.

As a nation, we should take the lead in foreign mission work, as there is no nation enjoying more blessings or reaping more advantages as the result of foreign mission work done, than the British nation. We are so prone to think of our giving; let us consider for a little while what we have received. When Christ gave His disciples the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and God bestowed the wonderful power to obey that command on the day of Pentecost, by the gift of tongues, then began that grand organization of foreign mission work which shall continue until the kingdoms of this earth shall have become the kingdom of our God and his Christ. Peter, with all his Jewish exclusiveness, had to be taught that salvation was for more than the Jews, that what God cleansed was not common or unclean. Paul, with all the qualities of a noble missionary, made several journeys into Europe. How he preached, and wrote and worked for the salvation of others, in imitation of his Master, and obedience to His command! No use of those early Christians sitting down under their own fig trees, and saying they had no interest in foreign missions, the command had been too direct, and it is as direct still if we read aright. There were Christians at Rome before Paul visited it, as we know from his epistle to the Romans, which was written ere he went there. It was from Rome that Britain received missionaries. Would there be some amongst those early Christians at Rome, who would say, "What is the use of going to that little island with its barbarian people with their Druidism?" Look at the struggle through the centuries, which the handful of good seed sown had, ere it made a bushel. Think of the dark and midnight of

the early centuries, when so much was wrong and so little right; then the grey dawn of the Tudor period; now the morning has come when the "Sun of Righteousness" is shining over the nation, and she stands as the leading Christian nation of the world. Not by any means perfect, with some dark blots and stains upon her, and sin and suffering within her, yet with hundreds and thousands of noble Christian men and women, who would part with all else save the knowledge of Christ and Him crucified. Was there anything special in those barbarian Britons, with their queer rites and ceremonies around the mistletoe tree, to attract these missionaries? Nothing, unless their ignorance appealed to them. But to us who now read that history in the light of better days, what does that early missionary work mean? Only that God has been marvellously good unto us, and to our race His tender mercies have been new every morning, and His faithfulness every evening, for the last thirteen hundred years.

Away back in the centuries, when our ancestors could not even read, they know and rejoiced in the wonderful story of the cross. Shall we, the children of such blessings received from foreign mission work *done, not be interested in foreign mission work yet to be done.* Now our interest in foreign mission work does not mean our contributions, be they small or great as we can afford; but it means our hearts full of love to, and sympathy with the work. When we get all hearts into the work, means will be abundant for the work. Now there is so much desire after culture; if we want to get cultured in Christianity get into foreign mission work. Think of others besides our selves, and other nations as well as our own. It will deepen, widen and sweeten our own life. Sometimes we seem to look inward for a whole life time, and wonder if our own salvation is sure; when we should have more faith, and look outward and worldward, and think of the salvation of others. The world is being opened up and made accessible to missionary work by a network of railways, and the evils of our nation have travelled very quickly to heathen lands. But let us send the good seed of the Gospel, scatter it freely, and attend to it carefully, then leave the results with God, as He alone can give the increase. How often many of us or all of us have used that beautiful expression in our Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come" without even thinking of what the kingdom consisted or how it is to come.

Some time ago a great many people in Europe expected Jesus would shortly come in person, and take up his abode in London, or some central part and rule the world. That may or may not come to pass, we know not. But of this we are certain, that Christ's kingdom will have come when the Gospel message has been taken to every creature, and He reigns supreme in every human heart. Don't let us say with our lips "Thy kingdom come," and yet make no effort to hasten on that glad time; when all people and nations shall know, and serve the God whom we adore. Christianity even gives nature a fuller and deeper meaning to us. We can see God in everything. We can have sermons from stones, books, from running brooks, and good from everything. We look at the lily, and remember Him who is the Lily of the Valley, and the rose reminds us of the Rose of Sharon. When we are supplying our physical wants we can think of Him, who is the water and bread of life to our souls. When we are heart weary, we know of One who can give us rest. When we go astray, we know of One who came to seek and to save the lost. When we are bereaved, we know there is One who will never leave or forsake, and when we come to Jordan's brink we know of One who says, "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee."

But the poor heathen sees God in nothing, and in his seeking after God, he makes for himself idols, and gives to these the worship which is due to God alone, and which he would give to God, if he were not spiritually blind. There are few things more pathetic or touching than to see a person physically blind, and if such an one could help over some rough crossing how many willing hands there are to give that help.

What about the spiritually blind, won't we have willing hearts and hands to help them? We have no remedy for the physically blind, but we have for the spiritually blind, we can tell them to look with the eye of faith, and see Jesus the light of the world. Some may say we have the spiritually blind at home, better care for them first. They are being well cared for: the best scholars, the deepest thinkers, the greatest minds of our nation have been trained to labour for the remedy of these blind. The friend of foreign missions is by no means the enemy of home missions. We want the world for Christ, Christ wants the world for Himself and the world wants Christ. What a great privilege it is for us to do in the smallest degree work like Christ has done. He came to make and show us the way to the Father, when we knew it not. Shall we not show the poor heathen the way to their Father and our Father, to their God and our God?

The field of foreign missions seems very great to us, but to God there is no foreign mission field. We stand in the centre of a circle and how narrow that circle sometimes is, and all within we call home, that beyond we call foreign. God looks down from heaven on this storm-tossed world; He sees His sinful child in the slums of London, a prodigal child in New York, and blind children in China, Japan, India and Africa, and an unbelieving child in France, and His fatherly heart is aching over all these, and He knows that the harvest truly is great but the labourers are few. The field is the world, the great home mission field of God. When we think of all the blessings which flow from Christianity, how great our thankfulness ought to be. Thankful to God for His great goodness unto us, to Jesus for His wondrous love for us, and to the Holy Spirit for guarding and guiding our way. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His goodness unto us? Won't the thought and language of each heart be "Take my all, and let me be, ever, only, all for thee."

Dr. Paton and the New Hebrides Mission.

DR. PATON has met with most encouraging success during his nine months in Britain in his efforts to secure pledges for the support of the proposed new Dayspring. Six weeks ago pledges amounting to £700 per annum had already been sent it and the sum was steadily increasing with every encouragement to hope that the £1,000 desired would be realized. He has been compelled, by complete exhaustion, to rest from his work. The realization of his projects is now far advanced. The Church in Victoria has authorized him to secure three additional missionaries, and the Mission Secretary of the Free Church has intimated to him that they also purpose sending out one more. Four, out of the five or six needed for the full occupation of the group, are thus already provided for. He sails for Australia on August 10th, and ere then there is good reason to hope that the means to accomplish both his projects will be placed at his disposal.

Value of Foreign Missions.

THE great English quarterly reviews are not lavish in their praise of any enterprise, and it is all the more gratifying, therefore, to find in a recent issue of the London Quarterly a frankly generous tribute to the value of foreign missions. The writer claims that not only the cause of religion, but that of philology, geography, ethnography, ethnology and many other sciences have been materially aided by the voluntary labours of the missionaries. The material advantages being thus conceded, the Quarterly continues, "The heathen oracles are dumb, their philosophies are undermined, their creeds are honeycombed with distrust under the advance of western civilization, and the one supreme question is whether this place is to be filled by the adoption of an agnostic morality or by the acceptance of Christian truth. For despite the poetic fancy which invests non-Christian religious systems with an aureole of sanctity and beauty, they have been weighed and found wanting in power