

1891. Epiphany

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

OF THE



Church of England in Canada.

Epiphany Appeal,

1891.

REVEREND SIR,—It is our desire that this address, from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada be read, as a sermon or otherwise, in the hearing of every congregation in our dioceses on Sunday, January 4th, 1891, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

JOHN FREDERICTON, *Metropolitan.*

J. T. ONTARIO.

J. W. QUEBEC.

W. B. MONTREAL.

ARTHUR TORONTO.

E. ALGOMA.

MAURICE S. HURON.

CHARLES NIAGARA.

F. NOVA SCOTIA.

To the members of the Church of England throughout the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. GREETING:

The Festival of the Epiphany, which has now for some years been selected as the occasion for an appeal on behalf of Foreign Missions, brings before us one of the grandest and most impressive truths of the Divine Revelation.

The Church's design in the celebration of this Feast is to shew forth her gratitude to God in manifesting His Son to the Gentiles and in giving to them equal privileges with His ancient people Israel. This manifestation was threefold: First in the star which appeared in the east, and guided the Magi to the Saviour in Bethlehem; secondly, in the stupendous glories of His baptism; and, thirdly, in His first miracle wherein, at Cana of Galilee, He turned the water into wine. The

truths embodied in these three manifestations are those which the Church wishes to emphasize in her dealing with the heathen world.

She wishes to send forth her missionaries as burning and shining lights to guide the heathen to the feet of Christ; to hush all human voices and make idolatry itself silent, while God aloud declares, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," and lastly to shew the great dark world of sorrow and of shame how Christ can turn the water into wine; how He alone can give it beauty for its ashes, and change the deep waters of its sad despair into the wine of peace and joy and hope.

In considering the great subject of Foreign Missions, we would lay before you certain momentous facts, the gravity of which it is impossible to overstate.

First, Foreign Missions in the Holy Scriptures are indissolubly connected with the present joy and future glory of our ascended Lord.

In the eternal purpose of God, Christ has been made the Head of the heathen. They are His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth are His possession. In accordance with this design our Lord not only solemnly charged His Church to go into all the world, and preach His Gospel to every creature, but He subsequently interposed by Divine revelations to enforce obedience to this command. A majestic vision revealed to St. Peter that he was to break the silence of centuries, and proclaim the Gospel to the Gentile soldier in Caesarea; while a little later, not as the result of any human conference, or even devout wish of the Church, but by the direct command of God the first great Foreign Mission was begun. As certain prophets and teachers, we are told, ministered to the Lord in Antioch, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." In obedience to this command, these men were solemnly set apart and sent forth for this service; and it is immediately added, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia." Foreign missions were therefore begun by the direct authority of God the Holy Ghost. "He shall glorify Me," said the Saviour, speaking of the mission of the Comforter. For the glory of the Redeemer He began them; for His glory He sustains them, and to His infinite praise will at last complete them when the harvest of the world is reaped.

Secondly, Foreign Missions have from the first been blessed of God.

All the millions of Great Britain, Europe and America who to-day bow the knee to Christ, are the result of Foreign Missions. Our forefathers once served dumb idols even as they were led. It was the word of the Lord from Jerusalem which first brought them to the knowledge

of the truth. Astounding also are the evidences of Divine blessing on more modern missions. India, which a century past was unreached by the light, has to-day a Christian population of upwards of half a million; Japan, closed till 1854, is now rapidly becoming a Christian nation, while China, the very citadel of heathen influence, is speedily being interpenetrated by the heralds of the truth. In the Sandwich and Fiji Islands, in Madagascar, Burmah and Africa living churches have, through the grace of God, been brought into being, where but yesterday there was nothing but the darkness of moral night. No nations have yet been found too fierce to be subdued, no intellects too clouded for this light not to penetrate. All-sufficient has been His grace, and the triumphs of the past are but the precursors of still mightier events in the future.

Thirdly, The state of the world at present still demands the most intense activity of the Church. While the population of the world is estimated at 1,470,000,000, (or about a billion and a-half,) 874,000,000 of men are yet utter heathen, unpenetrated by a single beam of light, and uncheered by any ray of hope. We therefore call upon you for the sake of that glorious Redeemer on whom our hopes are fixed, and whose second advent is contingent upon the fulfilment of His great missionary command, to take your part in the advancement of His kingdom by your prayers, your offerings and your personal service. The true secret of spiritual prosperity at home is missionary activity abroad, and our confidence is that, while listening to these appeals, your hearts may be aroused from the apathy of the past and brought into living sympathy with that glorious work for which the Saviour gave his life.

You will hear with much pleasure and satisfaction that the Board has now taken a step, which, with the blessing of God, will doubtless prove a powerful stimulus to the cause of missions throughout the length and breadth of the Province. Encouraged by the increasing sympathy shown toward all Domestic and Foreign Missions by the various Dioceses within their sphere, and desiring to encourage the laudable desire that our Church should, as soon as possible, commence direct missionary work herself, the Board has now accepted the services of the Rev. J. G. Waller, B.A., of Trinity College, Toronto, as a missionary to Japan. Mr. Waller, while appearing on the list of the clergy of the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, will be financially supported by the funds of our Board. We have only to add that having sailed some six weeks ago, Mr. Waller must now, with the blessing of God, be on the field of his labours.

The Board has also accepted the services of Miss J. C. Smith who expects, God willing, in two years to sail for the East. Moved by the spiritually destitute state of the Chinese in Vancouver's Island, the Board has granted \$500 to the Bishop of British Columbia towards the much needed work of their evangelization. The contributions for the last three years, \$35,740, are full of hope, and betoken a deepening interest in the cause, but owing to the loud call from the heathen world abroad, and the fact that our Church in Canada is now herself entering the field of Foreign Missions, we must entreat of you a more hearty and vigorous support, more consecration of spirit, more earnestness in prayer, remembering that while those are blessed who sow beside all waters, yet the crown, the glorious crown, for which we strive and trust, is not only for the great and illustrious, but for all those who love the appearing of our Lord.

NOTE.—It is recommended that the offerings for this purpose be sent at as early a date as possible to the Secretary-Treasurer of each Diocese, to be by him transmitted to Mr. J. J. Mason, General Treasurer of the Society.

CHAS. H. MOCKRIDGE, D.D.

*General Secretary,
Toronto.*

THE Secretary-Treasurer in each Diocese, to whom all moneys are to be sent are as follows:—

Nova Scotia, Rev. Dr. Partridge, Halifax, N. S.

Quebec, George Lampson, Quebec, P. Q.

Toronto, D. Kemp, Merchants' Bank Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

Fredericton, A. P. Tippet, St. John, N. B.

Montreal, Rev. Canon Empson, Montreal, Que.

Huron, J. W. McWhinney, London, Ont.

Ontario, R. V. Rogers, Kingston, Ont.

Algoma, D. Kemp, Merchants' Bank Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

Niagara, J. J. Mason, Hamilton, Ont.

TRIENNIAL REPORT.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

With this Appeal I send you three copies of the Triennial Report (1890) of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, with the request that you will be so good as to hand two of them to your church wardens or other influential men of your parish as you may think proper.

Yours truly,

Chas. H. Mockridge,

Secretary.