

1892 Epiphany.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE

Church of England in Canada.

Epiphany Appeal.

1892.

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 3rd, 1892; and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Foreign Missions.

JOHN FREDERICKSON, *Metropolitan.*

J. T. ONTARIO.

E. ALGOMA

J. W. QUEBEC.

MAURICE S. HURON.

W. B. MONTREAL.

CHARLES NIAGARA.

ARTHUR TORONTO.

F. NOVA SCOTIA.

To the Reverend, the Clergy, and the Congregations of the Church of England in Canada :

DEAR BRETHREN,—The great Festival of the Epiphany which we are now called upon to celebrate, should not only fill us with gratitude for the mercies of the past, but stimulate us with renewed zeal for the future. The limits of our thankfulness to God for having revealed His Son to us, will always be the measure of our desire to make him known to others. The only Festivals, which are not merely local, but which include in their vast design all peoples, languages, empires, and states of the world, are those of our holy religion. The Festivals of our Lord are for all mankind ; as He died for the world, so Epiphany embraces the world ; celebrating, as it does, the close of her long ages of impenetrable gloom, and the dawn of that brighter day when the Sun of Righteousness arose, A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel. The moral gloom of the world, however, is not mere ignorance—not that mere midnight darkness, which, though never so

profound, awaits only the breaking of the day, it is far more than this—it is that all the unemancipated people of the earth are under the direct control of Satan, who, as prince and god of this world, has blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine into them. The mission therefore of our great Redeemer is not merely to dispel the mists that envelope so large a portion of the world, it is beyond all this, to destroy the works of the devil: it is, to use the language of the late Archbishop Magee, “an invasion of the kingdom of Satan by the kingdom of God.” The wrenching of all potentiality and kingship from the hands of the great usurper, and the establishment of His own throne in the righteousness and glory of the Father.

Such then being the mission of our Lord, it follows that such must be the mission of His Church. She must be absolutely one with Him in His great ultimate design—in the conflict of the present, and in the triumph of the future. As one heart beats in both, the Church must always wage His war. She can only love what He loves, and only grasp at what He desires.

This contest, since the foundation of Christ's kingdom on the earth, has been ceaselessly maintained. It is well, therefore, after nearly nineteen hundred years of war, to pause and see what triumphs have been accomplished in the past, and what yet remains for the future.

The lowly company gathered round our risen Lord in Jerusalem are now represented by some 400,000,000 of professed Christians, scattered over the face of the earth. They are divided as follows:—Greeks and Eastern Communions, 85,000,000; Roman Catholics, 195,000,000; Anglicans and all Protestant Communions, 135,000,000. Turning now to hostile forces, we find that they may be arranged as follows:—Mohammedans, 173,000,000; Hindoos, 200,000,000; Buddhists and their allies, 400,000,000; outlying barbaric heathens, 200,000,000; total 973,000,000.

Such then are the terrible powers of darkness, marshalled under the banner of Satan, and all bitterly hostile to the kingdom and authority of our blessed Lord. Beside these there are computed to be 7,000,000 Jews. To preach the Gospel to these 973 millions, and to gather a people for God among them is now the one tremendous and supreme work of the Church.

In studying the history of the past, we cannot but notice a remarkable, though melancholy, instance of retrogression, in which the Church seems practically to have been swept away, and the enemy allowed to occupy all the strongholds of her power.

In early ages the whole of North Africa, from the Red Sea on the East, to the Pillars of Hercules on the West, was mainly Christian. Here lived Clemens and Tertullian, Origen, Cyprian and Augustine; men mighty in faith and love, who, being dead, yet speak. Here were flourishing churches, and here the Truth seemed established beyond all the vicissitudes of time. To-day all this is changed; North Africa is

now Mohammedan. The crescent is now waving where the Cross once stood, and all christianity, "save an oppressed remnant," is gone.

The question cannot but present itself. Why was this sweeping judgment allowed? No answer can be given except that the Church of North Africa had lost her first love and had ceased to let her light shine. Careless of the great commission of her Lord, she had ceased to be missionary and so provoked His indignation that at last He utterly removed her candlestick and submerged all her glory beneath the wave of Saracenic ~~war~~. And He who did all this still walks amid the golden candlesticks, and still tries the children of men, and therefore if we of the Church in Canada, desire to ~~in~~ our high destiny by the advancement of the Redeemer's glory, we must come more into blessed harmony with our Divine Head and realize more fully both His sorrows and His joys. Most clearly in the Holy Scriptures are we taught that, it is in the eternal purpose of the Father that our Lord is to be the Head of the heathen, that therefore which the Father has promised is that which the Son expects, and that which the Son expects must be that for which His faithful Church will ever work and wait and pray. *fulfil*

You are all doubtless aware that the Church in this ecclesiastical Province has to some extent rolled away the reproach of the past, and has established the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions, whose object is, not only to diffuse Missionary light and intelligence among her people; but also to lead them on to direct aggressive work among the heathen whether on this continent or abroad.

The Board has ~~now~~ three acknowledged missionaries in Japan; although but one of these is supported directly by our funds.

In conclusion: we make an earnest and fervent appeal to you all; as those who love the appearing of our Lord, whose glorious advent awaits the hour when His gospel shall have been preached to all the nations of the earth, not only to sympathize with, but cordially to extend the helping hand to this most momentous and blessed work.

We would suggest three ways in which your sympathy can be shown:—

First—By complying with the Saviour's command that we should pray the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.

Secondly—By consecrating yearly to this object as large a sum as your means will allow.

Thirdly—By allowing your sons and daughters, should they be so moved by God, to leave your homes to witness, to suffer, and, if needs be, to die for the cause of our blessed Lord among the dark and unenlightened people of the earth.

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 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, Geo. E. Fairweather, 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.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

With this appeal I send you three copies of the Annual Report (1891) 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 think proper.

Yours truly,

Chas. H. Mockridge

Secretary

Toronto, Dec. 22nd, 1891.

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