

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CANADA.
EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1888.

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 1st, 1888, 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.

To the members of the Church of England in Canada—Greeting:

BRETHREN IN CHRIST: The Church in Canada, through her Board of Missions, addresses you to-day on a subject of vital importance to her own welfare, and to the honor of that blessed Lord and Master whom she serves. The missionary work of the Church—it has been often said, and yet it can not be too deeply impressed upon the hearts of Christ's people—is the first and highest purpose of her very existence. To preach the Gospel to every creature, to make disciples of all nations,—this is the noble mission, this first and before all other work, for which the Lord Christ commissioned His Church. We need therefore to make no apology for addressing you on this subject, endeavoring to

stir up your zeal and devotion to our Master's highest service.

For more than eighteen centuries the Lord Jesus Christ has been waiting for His Church to accomplish this mission on which He sent her. The Holy Scriptures reveal Him to us as sitting on the right hand of God "expecting" till His enemies be made His footstool." (Heb. x., 13.) What delays the fulfilment of his expectation? God the Father hath promised it, God the Son expects it, God the Holy Ghost was sent to bring it to pass. Why is it not accomplished? Why is it that after so many centuries there still remain more heathen in the world than there are Christians? Is it not because of the want of zeal and love of the Church? Christ has committed His work to His Church to accomplish for Him. It is the chief work of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, of which we are the working members, and which is animated by the Eternal Spirit of Life. The Church is able to fulfil this glorious mission if she will. She has the very power of God Himself. She has the assurance of victory, the certainty of success, if she will only give herself and go forth to the battle in the strength of the Lord. The triumphs of the first three centuries are living proofs of the power that Christ's Church can wield. To-day, with all the aids of wealth, education, and all the other forces of civilization, sanctified by the same Holy Spirit who came to dwell in her at Pentecost, what can she not accomplish for her Lord?

Thanks be to God that this 19th century has witnessed a great awakening of the Church to her

noble mission. We see to-day the strongholds of superstition and error attacked by the missionaries of Christ's Church, and already trembling to their fall. India, with her two hundred and fifty millions of heathen, begins to feel the mighty stirring of the seed of life planted in her midst by the missionaries of the Church. China and Japan, with more than four hundred millions ignorant of the true God and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent to save the world, have thrown open their long closed doors to receive not only the commerce of Europe and America, but also the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. The feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace are daily pressing further and further into the once trackless deserts of Africa, and the light of Life has already begun to dawn upon the "Dark Continent." The islands of the sea have many of them become already the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ. England's wealth is flowing, in ever richer, fuller stream, into the missionary coffers of the Church. England's colleges are sending some of the best and noblest of her sons to this great work of Missions. Further and further into the regions of spiritual darkness are devoted missionaries carrying the banner of the Cross, and proving to a sceptical world that Christianity is not effete, that the Lord is in His Church indeed, and that His Word will be fulfilled, and His purpose accomplished. And upon all this our Lord and King looketh from His Throne on high, and rejoiceth in the approaching triumph of light and love over darkness and sin.

But, alas! how small a part has the Canadian Church hitherto taken in this glorious warfare! Where are the sons of Canada, sent forth by our Canadian Church to witness before our Master and the world to our faith and love? A few thousands of dollars gathered once a year and sent to the noble English Societies that are working in the Mission field, this is all the interest that the Church in Canada has as yet taken in this greatest of all good works, this highest of all sacred duties. Yes, there are sons and daughters of Canada who are working in these Mission fields for the cause of Christ, but they are not the sons and daughters of the Church of England in Canada.

The total amount contributed through your Board of Foreign Missions by this whole great Ecclesiastical Province of Eastern Canada, between the 1st of August, 1886, and the 14th of September, 1887, was \$10,053, and although we are aware that

this is not all that has been contributed by the Canadian Church to Foreign Mission work, still, even though it were doubled, how small a contribution would it seem for the Dominion of Canada to make to this mighty, this pressing work of Christ's Church.

Other religious bodies around us are sending both men and money into the Foreign field in larger measure than this, and the Canadian Church is quite able to do more for Foreign Missions as well as for Domestic, if only the spirit of zeal and love prompt her so to do. It surely would not be expecting too much from the nine dioceses, containing upwards of eight hundred parishes, in this Ecclesiastical Province, to ask for an average contribution for Foreign Missions of about \$20—or a total of about \$16,000. With such an amount it might be possible to establish a distinctively Canadian Mission.

Brethren, it is of the utmost importance to the Church in Canada that she should rouse herself and take something like her proper position in this matter. We see our Mother Church in England, and our Sister Church in the United States, instinct with a wonderful spiritual life. We find these evidences of life co-ordinate with an active interest in the Foreign Missions of the Church. Internal dissensions are fast fading before the influx of that wider spirit of love which an interest in Foreign Missions necessarily evokes. If the Church in Canada would have her full share of this rich life, and would not be found falling behind her fellow workers for Christ in zeal and love for her Master's work, she must strive more earnestly to fulfil this neglected duty. Let the members of the Canadian Church not disappoint the expectation of their Lord, but give themselves, their prayers, their money, their sons and daughters to the glorious work of winning the world to Christ.

The Church in Canada speaks to her members to-day in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and bids them come to the aid of the Lord. *First, give your money.* To no higher purpose can you devote it, no better use can you make of it. If, in the day of His coming, Christ may be able to say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant,"—if, in return for the money you have given, you shall see souls standing before the Lord, redeemed by the aid of your alms, it will be the richest jewel in your eternal crown. *Give liberally.* Remember it is to the Lord Jesus you are giving;

it is He who asks for it, He who will acknowledge it when He shall come to reward His saints. *Give systematically.* Set aside a certain portion regularly for Missions; remember the work is going on all the time; day after day, week after week, it needs constant and regular support. No spasmodic effort, no dollar or two, given once a year, is adequate in any sense to the greatness of the work, or to the share which your Lord expects you to take in it. *Give proportionately.* Remember that the Lord knows the circumstances of each, and expects each one to do according to his ability.

Secondly, *pray* that the Lord will send forth laborers into His vineyard, that He will inspire the hearts of fit persons to offer themselves for missionary service, that He will uphold and strengthen those who are laboring in the Mission field, that He will shed abroad abundantly the power of the Holy Ghost, blessing the Mission work of the Church, and making it effectual to the conversion of the nations. But take heed that your alms accompany your prayers, for how can you expect Christ to hear and answer your prayers to Him to send missionaries, unless you provide Him with the means of supporting them? How can He bless the seed unless you send men to sow it?

It is true, indeed, that there is a vast work to be done yet in our own country. It is true that there are heathen at our own doors, wide Mission fields in our own Dominion, almost beyond our power to care for, yet this does not release us from the obligation to aid in the work in other lands. Christ's Church is *one*, Christ's work is *one*. All parts of the Church must be interested in the work of the whole Church. No part can isolate itself and work only in its own little sphere without a narrowing of that Divine spirit of love which animates and works through the whole Body of Christ. The Philippian Church, remarkable amongst the

Apostolic Churches as most free from strifes and divisions, and richest in faith and love and spiritual life, is also remarkable as being the one Church commended for contributing to the support of the great missionary, St. Paul, during his missionary labors at Corinth.

No such successful efforts have ever been made by the Church in England to cope with the practical heathenism of the masses in the great cities of England, as have been made since she began to take an active part in Foreign Mission work. So also there can be no loss to the Church in Canada in taking a deeper interest in Foreign Missions. On the contrary, we cannot but believe that the Lord will pour upon her a richer blessing, will prosper her the more in her work at home, as she is faithful to her duties abroad.

Brethren in Christ, this is a work needing the financial and spiritual aid of every Christian. Not one of us can fail in his duty without loss and injury to the Church. The great Captain of our salvation is looking down upon us, noting our faithfulness or our unfaithfulness to Him and to His cause. May His Spirit so fill your hearts with His love for all humanity, that the Church in Canada may give a generous response to the call of the Master and help to hasten the coming of His Kingdom by her zeal and devotion in the missionary work of His Church.

ARTHUR TORONTO, Chairman.

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,
Hamilton, Ont.