

1889. Epiphany.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND IN CANADA.

EPIPHANY APPEAL, 1889.

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 6th, 1889, 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.

FREDERICK NOVA SCOTIA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Once more we, the bishops, clergy and laity, composing the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, appeal to the loyal sons and daughters of the Church on behalf of Foreign Missions. We make the appeal so that it will reach all at a time when the minds of Christian people are being directed towards the infant Saviour and his first manifestation to the Gentiles or people of foreign lands. We would lead your thoughts back, not only to the infancy of the great Head of the Church, but to the infancy of the Church itself.

The history of the early preachers of the Gospel, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, is but a missionary history throughout. Missionary journeys, missionary prayers and speeches, missionary sufferings and dangers, missionary hopes and triumphs are the leading features of that one only book which describes the rise and progress of the Church of Apostolic days. It was by "the journeyings often" that the great Apostle to the Gentiles preached the unsearchable riches of Christianity. And it was by a continuation of this primitive work that Christianity was planted in distant parts of the great Roman Empire and within the Imperial city itself, until, in fact, it became the established religion of the realm, and was sub-

sequently carried to those parts of the world where it is known and recognized to-day.

Active and aggressive work has proved the prolific source of true vitality in the Christian Church from her earliest days till now, and the absence of that work has always resulted in various forms of apathy and unbelief.

Therefore, the clear duty of the Church at the present hour is, what it has always been, the conversion of the heathen world to the peaceful and elevating principles of the everlasting Gospel. There can be no greater mistake made by any Church or congregation than to rest contented with meeting the claims of its own home work, however urgent those claims may be. Again and again this point must be pressed upon all, bishops, clergy and laity alike. Such is but a part only of the work of Christ's Church. It can never be that any Church or congregation is performing its whole duty by merely endeavoring to keep alive work which has already been established. It is by a spirit quite the reverse of this that Christianity is to flourish and grow. In fact the very maintenance of the Church depends upon its aggressive work against the powers of darkness and degradation. And where are those powers more clearly seen than in the vast realms of heathenism? Surely there is cause for the Church of Christ to feel bitter shame that, close upon the dawn of the twentieth century, there are in the world 856 millions of heathen, to say nothing of Mohammedans and Jews, while Christians of all shades and beliefs number but 390 millions!—390 millions as against 1,034 millions that are not even nominally Christian! We plead to-day for all these millions, dying without Christ, at the rate of 100,000 a day. We plead for their enlightenment, for their release from cruel and degrading customs, for the education of their children in the ways of civilization and the saving power of Christ and for the emancipation of their women from their cruel state of slavery.

The doors are now open everywhere for missionary labors. Resistance to the preaching of the Word to a great extent has ceased. It only remains for us "to go in and possess the land." The millions of India, under the sway of Christian England, are now ready to lend a willing ear to the words of the Gospel, and many cruel and unnatural customs are already things of the past. The darkest remnant of their heathenism is the unhappy condition of their women, and this is being gradually ameliorated through the efforts of

Zenana Societies. China has at length opened up intercourse with the west and has thus thrown wide the open door for the words of Gospel truth. Japan already welcomes the Christian missionary as the necessary companion to that European civilization she is endeavoring to establish in her midst. The hour is ripe for missionary work all over the world. Where are the men, brethren? Where are the means?

One at least of the great English Missionary Societies has expressed a willingness to accept young men from Canada and to assign them posts of evangelistic work among the heathen. Are there not boys and young men who will qualify themselves for this work and go forth in the name of the Lord to do it? Are the world of commerce, the heaping together of riches, with no knowledge as to who shall gather them, the secular professions and walks of life,—are these to engross the energies of all young men whose foreheads have been marked with the mark of the crucified Lord and who have been trained in the ways of His Church? Where are the mothers who, like Hannah of old, have lent their boys to the Lord for this noble work?

Young men of Canada, we call upon you to take upon yourselves this all important duty. How many will respond and say, "Here am I, send me"?

And where are the means? This appeal is designed to reach all the congregations in this Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. If every congregation that it reaches and every individual who hears it would extend to it the living and enthusiastic interest that its importance demands the response would be many times larger than the seven thousand two hundred and eight dollars (a sum far too small) that was received in answer to the appeal of last year. How can a man who spends all his energies upon the amassing of wealth, the acquisition of luxuries, the administering to his own ease and comfort, without laying aside a regular and substantial proportion of his means

towards the great work of evangelizing the world and rescuing it from heathen darkness,—how can such a man lay claim to be a true disciple of Christ?

We can only pray that the hearts of people calling themselves Christians may yet be touched to such an extent as to lead to some actual self-denial on their part, that the work of their Lord may be supported and extended.

And we would not conclude this appeal without expressing our gratitude to Almighty God for the one hundred and thirty-four parochial branches of the Woman's Auxiliary to Missions that have been established in our midst. We recognize this as what is destined to be a powerful agency in carrying on the missionary operations of our Canadian Church. Already it has borne fruit in the sending forth by the Woman's Auxiliary of Toronto, the first woman missionary of the Church of England in Canada, who is now working as a teacher to the Blackfoot Indians of the North-West. May we soon learn of others being sent even to more distant places!

All Christian bodies are becoming more and more alive to the great work of missions. We ask the sons and daughters of our Apostolic Church to work with a good heart and will that she may take her true place in the van of this great and noble work.

JOHN FREDERICTON, Metropolitan,
Chairman.

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