

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

With the exception of the Aged and infirm Ministers' and the Widows' and Orphans' Funds, every fund of the church is free from debt. This is a cause of devout gratitude. Three or four weeks ago, I thought we were likely to end the year with a debt well on to \$20,000 in the Home Mission Fund. The facts were made known to the church, and I have never, in my experience, known so generous and general a response to an appeal, shewing how warm a place the Home Mission work has in the hearts of our people. The Committee will be greatly cheered when they meet this week, to know that the fund is free from debt and that it will be unnecessary to contract the work. Seeing that the response has been so general and liberal, it would be perhaps invidious to mention names of either ministers, congregations or individual friends that have come to our help in so handsome a manner. I cannot, however, refrain from mentioning that, on the morning of the day the church year ended, I received a letter from a friend in Ottawa offering to be one of two or three to meet in full the Home Mission debt, which he then supposed to be about \$15,000. It was not necessary to avail ourselves of this generous offer, but it is most cheering and encouraging to know that in time of extremity we can fall back upon friends so warmly interested in the work and so ready to give of their means to see that it is carried on without the necessity of reducing the staff or withdrawing from fields occupied by our missionaries.

While gratitude to God is the dominant sentiment, I cannot help expressing disappointment regarding the state both of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund and the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The former is nearly \$1,000 short and the latter about \$5,000. I confess that I am at a loss to understand this. The church entered into a covenant with the ministers who served it in the earlier years of the history of the country, whereby it pledged itself to take care of these ministers in their old age, and to give a small annuity to their widows, on condition that these ministers paid regularly an annual rate to these two funds. The ministers implemented their part of the contract, and now it seems to me that the church is in honor bound to implement its part. The annuities to those aged ministers, as well as to the widows and orphans of others, are due in the end of this month, and the committee of the one fund is short \$1,000 and of the other \$5,000 wherewith to meet these annuities. I cannot believe that the church will consent to the annuities being reduced, and that it is simply necessary to make known these facts to bring in a generous response from many of our congregations and Christian people before the end of this month.

At the meeting of the General Assembly in June, a large number of elders met and discussed these two schemes, pledging themselves to do all they could to see that they were liberally supported. It is hoped that within the next three weeks, the elders of our church will give time and help so that before the 31st of March, the shortage in both funds may be made good.

ROBT. H. WARDEN.

Toronto, Mar. 10, 1902.

THE TEST OF LOVE

"If ye love me, keep my commandments?" Does our Saviour ask of us a hard thing? an unpleasant thing? an unwelcome thing? Not if we know him as our personal Saviour; not if we love him in some gracious measure for his great love wherewith he loved us even when we were dead in sins: for then are we able to give a swift and glad response to the truth of the declaration, "This is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

The dutiful, loving child feels bound to carry out the benevolent wishes or pious teachings of an earthly parent; even more conscientiously and lovingly, after the revered one has passed into the unseen world. The devout Christian loves God's holy law, hides his word in his heart that he may be restrained from sin. Many times he feels to exclaim with the Psalmist, "Oh how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." "Thy precepts have I kept with care." "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."

This is simply Christian experience. It is in no sense hyperbole, or an occasional burst of emotion; it is the habit; it is the life of the humble, trusting believer, of him whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates upon it day and night. For such an one it is no hardship to obey when God commands. Love to God and to his neighbor is his ruling characteristic. He despises to take up an evil report against his neighbor, and when regretfully compelled to believe him guilty of wrong-doing, he refrains from harsh and self-righteous judgments, considering himself, lest, in some unguarded moments, he also be overborne by temptation to the commission of sin. He shuns even the appearance of evil, that his example may be such as becometh godliness; that he may not vex the heart of a Christian brother, or become an occasion of stumbling to a weaker one.

His attendance on the worship of the family and of the sanctuary, is regular and devout. His regard for the sanctity of the Sabbath is sincere and deeply grounded. He is grieved with those whose lives display irreverence towards God; without strict and unwavering consistency in the practice of religious duties; whose minds are easily influenced by careless companions to lower the standard of holy living which God has set up. "I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word."

These are distinguishing features of the spiritual man, readily discernible in every brother who walks humbly with his God. He is a life of prayer unceasing; of faith unfeigned; of love without dissimulation; of devotion to duty under the leadings of the Spirit.

Are we followers of God as dear children, walking in love, as Christ has loved us and given himself for us? Then we

will not allow anything to come between us and our God. We will not permit the evil that is in the world to alienate us from the life of God, by conforming to its maxims and customs; but our daily striving will be to live soberly, righteously, and godly, redeeming the time. —The United Presbyterian.

Literary Notes.

Did politics and religion ever meet more happily, fitly and potently than in the appointment of a pastor, preacher, editor, university professor and theologian to the premiership of Holland? This same wonderful man, Dr. Abraham Kuyper, massive in intellect as in physique, delivered the Stone Lectures at Princeton 1898-1899, while he was yet a professor in the University of Amsterdam (of which he was the founder) and also a Member of Parliament. These lectures were published by the Revell Company under the simple title, "Calvinism." As *The Outlook* well said "it is a book to be reckoned with" for "no abler exponent of Calvinism lives than the veteran professor who here exhibits it as indispensable to restore unity to Protestant thought and energy and to Protestant practical life. . . . These lectures exhibit it as a life system and as related to religion, politics, science, art and the general outlook for the future. The second edition of this masterly volume just out, will command even a more widespread attention than the first, because of Dr. Kuyper's elevation to the premiership as well as of his increasing recognition as a scholar."

Table Talk for March opens with an article by Christine Terhune Herrick on "The Housewife's Day," then follow "What Physical exercise will do," "A Chapter on Croquettes," "How to serve for the Unexpected Guest," and other articles of a similarly helpful nature. This magazine is one that all housekeepers should see. The Table Talk Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

The Ladies' Magazine for March opens with a most interesting article by Faith Fenton on "House keeping in the Yukon." Among other articles are "Woman's Work in the Church" and "A Group of Prominent Church workers." The various departments are full of suggestions, and there are special paragraphs with reference to the coming Easter-tide. The cover is an attractive one—a child clasping a spray of Easter lilies. The Hugh C. MacLean Co., Toronto.

The opening article in the March *Cosmopolitan* is on "Motherhood," and is profusely illustrated, one of the pictures being that of Her Excellency the Countess of Minto and her five children. "A Great Southern Exposition" is a well illustrated article describing the Charleston Exposition now in progress. Several stories and other articles complete the number. The *Cosmopolitan*, Irvington, N. Y.

"Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."—Jer. 29:13.