

sum equal to 78 cents per capita for our population, to be used in defense against a fourth-rate power, should we be less patriotic or loyal to the King of Kings? Let us not talk of sacrifice when we are asked to give \$100,000 to Christianize America; ten cents apiece for our million members is far below the plane of cold duty. Oh brethren! could you but see "the whitened fields" in our great, conscientious, intelligent, wealthy New England, with its loads of dead theology, and the intense yearning of the common people for the simple Christianity of the New Testament, you would not refuse us the proper men and means to open up this undeveloped field.

ROLAND A. NICHOLS.

Worcester, Mass.



O. P. SPIEGEL, Evangelist of Alabama.

THE PREACHER'S PART IN THE MAY OFFERING.

How does God raise a crop? Man prepares the soil, sows the seed, cultivates, but God grows the crop. Four kinds of soil, more or less, are in every congregation—the hard wayside, the shallow, the thorny, the good. But what kind is the preacher's heart? The answer to that denotes what kind of sower he is; whether diligent, hopeful, faithful, tactful, or otherwise. For missionary collections it is his commission faithfully to sow and cultivate, and then, at the proper time, to reap what God has grown; not too early, while it is green, nor too late, when it is shattered out. Be sure of the fragments. A faithful sower and reaper meets with resistance—but, remember, not from God. Then let him read his commission. The Kingdom of Heaven and the King are noting his faithfulness and his field. I have published a paper a number of years. Every week, for months ahead, that paper keeps the fact of the coming harvest we are sowing before the congregation. The pulpit proclaims its awful need. Prayer meetings (special) are held for its success. Then the Holy Spirit uses us just as much as we allow Him. If this isn't our business, we have none.

LOWELL C. MCPHERSON.

Buffalo, N. Y.



F. B. SAPP, Pine Bluff, Ark.

SHALL WE GO FORWARD?

The splendid results secured for the American Christian Missionary Society last year—results secured, too, in the face of tremendous discouragements—may well stimulate the churches to put forth extraordinary efforts to make the May offering one that shall be worthy of a great people. "Whereto we have attained let us hold fast," but, if possible, let us take one step in advance of last year. We have all the conditions for the doing of a work that shall tell through

the future years for God and the truth that is dear to our hearts. Our secretaries—the two Smiths—could not be improved upon. They have capacity, consecration, and a glorious enthusiasm that will not recognize the coldness of some churches and the criticisms of some people. We have as good men in the field as can be found anywhere—brave, self-denying and faithful to the gospel of Christ. We have open doors on every hand—wide open—which speak of invitation, access and welcome. We have the glorious gospel to preach—the gospel of love and liberty. Now is the very nick of time—big with opportunity and responsibility. Surely we shall not be found sleeping at our posts on this coming May-day. Let it be one of the gladdest and happiest days of the year.

E. L. POWELL.

Louisville, Ky.



B. H. LINGENFELTER, Tacoma, Wash.

HOW TO TAKE THE MAY OFFERING.

1. Remember there is no easy way of taking a good offering. It is comparatively easy to get a handful of coppers, but to get an amount of money worthy of the people who give it and the cause for which it is given requires work.

2. Prepare for it by ample announcements, full information, prayer and a good sermon red hot from the anvil upon which it has been forged with the utmost care. At its close the offering should follow without a moment's break.

3. Take the offering by subscription. Give every member a subscription blank or envelop and a sharp pencil and then exhort. Allow ten days for payment of the amount.

4. Do it all in the right spirit. The preacher and the deacons who pass up the aisles and canvass from house to house should be "in the spirit on the Lord's day" when this call is made.

At the First Church, in Akron, Ohio, this year, we shall select ten good men some weeks before who shall be in charge of the offering for the American Board. They will plan it and secure it

C. J. TANNAR.

Akron, Ohio.



A. McMILLAN, Cor. Sec., Michigan.

PRAYER FOR THE MAY OFFERING.

No work can be successful unless sanctified by prayer. The greatest work, and perhaps the only work, of the church is the salvation of souls; and the greatest work of the Disciples of Christ is the salvation of our own land. Hence the furtherance of this vital and important work should be the burden of our prayers, especially as we are drawing near the annual offering for Home Missions.

In the great, or perhaps the most import-

ant, events in the life of our Master we notice they were prefaced by prayer. The Master taught His disciples how to pray. In His sermon on the Mount he says "ask, seek, knock." Some blessings we receive by asking, some by seeking, and others by knocking. Let us attend to this, and we know the promise is sure and a large offering shall come from the loyal disciples of Christ. The "I am well pleased" was spoken to Jesus while He was praying. The "Hear ye Him" was spoken while He prayed. The "Father glorify Thy name" was spoken and the voice was heard again.

May the offering for the spread of the gospel in America be the largest and the best ever made by our people, that we may hear the "Well done," and thus glorify the Father's name, that He may be "well pleased" with us in our efforts to honor Christ and save the world. Pray as we pay, and pay as we pray.

J. J. IRVINE.

Jacksonville, Florida.

WHAT CAN THE MINISTER DO FOR THE MAY OFFERING?

(1) Use the missionary envelopes. Have a good supply of them; also a supply of lead pencils. The name of the contributor and the amount contributed should be written on the envelope. If cash is paid, the money should be put in the envelope; otherwise regard it as a subscription.

(2) Call your deacons to your assistance. Hand them envelopes and pencils, with instructions to supply every man, woman and child present. Have them lift the offering, but not until you give the word. Give time to prepare the envelopes; and, in the meantime,

(3) Be on the alert yourself. As a wise pastor, you may know why this, that and the other sister or brother are not responding. Address your final words to them; bring the gospel to bear upon them; be wise as a serpent in dealing with them; in short, special, and not random, talking will prove effective.

(4) Follow up the Sunday morning collection. Aim at a contribution from every member. Get after the absent ones at the night service and on the following Sunday. If still some have not given, try to know why. Ask them personally. They may have honest reasons that you can meet and dispel. They may need only to be won, as the south wind wins the rose. They may be eccentric, and wish only to be asked. You will reach your mark if you persist.

(5) Be prompt in forwarding the money to the secretaries. If necessary, give a month in which to pay subscriptions. Be a good collector in that time. Get every dollar subscribed; and when it is all in, speed it on its way. You will thus rejoice the hearts of hard-working and sacrificing missionaries and secretaries.

GEORGE DARSIE, JR.

Uniontown, Pa.

A SELF-DENIAL WEEK FOR HOME MISSIONS.

Only in the conventional, and often misreading, sense can we speak of self-denial as required of a Christian in order to the performance by him of any duty. The word self-denial is much more opposite to the duty of a sinner to put away the old man and put on the new man. Surely, for a Christian to make a large, or at least a liberal, offering for Home Missions may be more fitly and forcefully called self-assertion than self-denial, for it is a gratification and not an abnegation of his true self. He does not forego his real interests, but makes a glad endeavor, according to his ability, to foster and further them. Instead of relinquishing his most cherished desires, he rejoices in the