

## DEAD BRANCHES.

The *Gardener's Monthly* says: "It has only recently been clearly demonstrated that a dead branch on a tree makes almost as great a strain on the main plant for moisture as does a living one. This is one of the most important discoveries of modern botanical science to the practical horticulturist, as by this knowledge he can save many a valuable tree. Any dead branch, or any weak one, should be at once cut away."

The analogy of things makes this discovery a most suggestive one in other than botanical fields—and it is impossible not to make the very evident application to the organizations and local divisions in which are collected the plants of the Lord's planting here upon earth.

In any given congregation the demands and requirements of its worldly members, who have no vital union with the grand Head of the Church, are a very heavy strain upon the resources of the parish. This is true, both financially and spiritually, although in directly opposite directions. For with the desire for these things which call for much outlay of money there is sure to be associated a protest against the predominance of true spirituality in the conduct and management of the affairs of the parish. At least this is very apt to be the case. Experience has too often proved the correctness of the theory by observation. Analogy and pure reasoning lead us to expect such a result.

A botanist says, "here is something which has the appearance of a branch, but it lacks all fruitfulness. It absorbs moisture, but no vital processes go on within it. It only serves to abstract a portion of the fluid which is necessary to facilitate the delicate chemical processes which are known to go on in the living parts of the tree, by its swelling buds, its brilliant blossoms, its abundant verdure, and its perfected fruit." Very correctly therefore does the gardener remove the dead branch, as not only useless, but as positively injurious.

So we may safely conclude that the member of a church, who is not at the same time a member of Christ, is useless for any spiritual purpose, and is even detrimental. Not occupying the same ground, not having the same aims, or similar desires, it is not to be expected that he will be interested in measures which do not coincide with his tastes, and as he has been sought not only for the sake of the benefit likely to accrue to him, but largely for the sake of the social and financial strength he is known to possess, it can not reasonably be expected that he will be satisfied to see those advantages conferred without carrying with them that weight of influence which everywhere else they exercise. The practical necessity of catering to his tastes will thus inevitably lead to a general lowering of tone.

Far better will it be for the spiritual interests of a congregation to have no such dead branches attached to it, and the necessities which make it expedient to have such are so many evidences of the admixture of the worldly spirit which influences too many of us in the undertakings and enterprises of the day.

Well will it be for us if before we seek to secure the interests of this or that rich man, we ask whether he is animated by a vital union with Christ and therefore partaking of the essential oneness of view belonging to all Christians; or whether he is in reality a dead branch, which will absorb moisture, but can never be made to bear good fruit.

Of course we should seek for such as souls needing a Saviour, and as desiring for them salvation, but in any other light they can not prove valuable additions to any church.—*Episcopal Recorder*.

## RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY.

Mrs. Jas. Laird, 50cts; Alexander Weaver, 50; Melissa Porter, 50; Mrs. M. J. Todd, \$1; Alva C. Lambert, 50; Mrs. Darius Lord, 50; Jas. Haddon, 50; Mrs. Jas. Trecartin, 50; Joe Grant Stuart, 50; Mrs. M. G. Richardson, 50; Thos. L. Johnston, 50; Mrs. Wallace Stuart, 50; James Murray, 50; Eunice Murray, 50; Allen Minard, 50; William Freeman, 50; H. H. Harlow, 50; John M. Ford, 50; Maude Munroe, 50; Frank Etherington, 50; Jabez Freeman, 50; Harley Ford, 50;

Isaac Stewart, 50; Alfred Etherington, 50; H. Murray, 50; Mrs. Chas. Harlow, 50; Mrs. Josephine Minard, 50; A. A. Ford, 50; Parker Minard, 50; Hattie Ritchie, 50; James Ryan, 50; William Murray, 50; Simeon Kempton, 50; Susan Harlow, 50; Augustus Murray, 50; Annie Kempton, 50; W. S. Minard, 50; Ira Freeman, 50; Mrs. S. Brentnall, 50; Wesley Sim, 50; Joseph H. Withrow, 50; Alfred McNeil, 50; James Wallace, 50; Miss Libbie Harvey, 50; Joshua Brison, 50; Benjamin Wagoner, 50; Peter Wagoner, 50; Asa Porter, 50; George Cosman, 50; Mrs. C. A. Hardy, 50; H. M. Ruggles, 50; Milton Outhouse, 50; Thomas Powell, 50; Burton Outhouse, 50; H. A. Blackford, 50; Robert Outhouse, 50; J. M. Powell, 50; John M. Haines, 50; James Stephens, 50; Charles Thurber, 50; George Clark, 50; W. H. Eaton, jr., 50.

## RECEIPTS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA MISSION FUND.

The following amounts have been received since the report given in the November issue of THE CHRISTIAN:

Church at Tiverton, N. S.,	\$3 00
Church at Westport, N. S.,	14 50
Frank Ford, do.,	0 75
Sister Stephen North, Cornwallis, N. S.,	1 00
James Stephens, Newport, N. S.,	5 00
A Brother in N. S.,	8 00
Coburg St. Church and Sunday School St. John, N. B.,	69 68
Church at Lord's Cove, Deer Island, N. B.,	10 18
A Friend in Grand Manan, N. B.,	1 00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$113 11</b>

T. H. C., Treasurer, pro tem.

## DEATHS.

FLAGLOR.—At St. John, on the 11th ult., Bro. E. S. Flaglor. He was a member of the Duke St. Church for seventeen years, and took an active part in all its affairs. He was buried in the family burying ground at Oak Point, Kings Co., N. B.

HILLMAN.—In this city on the 1st Feb., William H. Hillman, son of William and Mary Hillman, aged 6 years and 6 months.

McDONALD.—At West Gore, N. S., Jan. 20th, 1884, Sister Libbie McDonald, aged 22 years. Her father, Bro. Angus McDonald, preceded her about four months, across the dark Jordan.

Thus pass away the best of earth,  
And break the strongest earthly ties;  
Our Saviour knows his jewels' worth,  
And where to place them in the skies.

Dear mourning ones, you well may weep,  
To part with friends so dear, so sweet,  
But now in Christ they sweetly sleep,  
In joy quite soon you all may meet.

—J. B. WALLACE.

## NOW READY!

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Containing, in addition to the usual information, the Dominion Tariff, corrected up to the present date.

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