

expenditure there are the pew rents amounting to \$2,000, unpaid subscriptions, &c., \$1,000, leaving about \$4,000 to be made up by the weekly offertory. Last year the offertory did not average \$60 per Sunday, the total amount for the year being \$2785. The offertory since Easter shews no signs of improvement, and as summer approaches the collections become smaller and smaller. There is no prospect of increase unless members of the Congregation, many more than at present, contribute a stated sum per week through the envelope. It may be taken for granted that every member of the Congregation feels it to be a matter of obligation to support the Church. No one who considers the question can think that his offering should be a matter of chance or of loose change, or depend on the weather. Yet each of these elements enters largely into the fluctuating amount which makes up the offertory at any service.

The largest loss to Church income, however, occurs in summer. Many who go away for pleasure or change entirely forget that the Church expenses go on during their absence, and that they are casting the whole burden upon those who stay at home. They provide for their pleasure, for their business, for everything that concerns self and family; but all Church responsibility they throw off as they steam out of port.

Says one, "I do not like this envelope system. I like to give my money freely and liberally; besides I always give to the Church I attend when I am away." By all means give, wherever you may be; but do you mean to say that you give in the Church which you casually attend during your holiday trip what you ought to give to the support of your own Parish Church and Clergy? This casual Church is not depending on you for support, while your own Church is.

The experience of other Churches goes to shew that the envelope system secures a regular and sufficient income. A significant lesson is taught by a bit of the private history of a congregation where envelopes were not popular. It was the Church of St. Lazarus, a west end Church, attended by a large and fashionable Congregation. There was a \$10,000 organ, a \$2,000 organist, and a \$1,200 minister. During the hot season, for three months, fifty families, who between them contributed \$35.00 per week to the collections, left town, some for the Continent, others for the seaside and quieter resorts. At once the collections dropped \$35 per Sunday, and at the end of the season there was a deficit of \$400. On their return home, one of the wardens button-holed an influential member of the Congregation and said: Do you know that our Minister's salary

is only so much? "You don't say; why it ought to be raised at least \$400." "I quite agree with you," said the warden; "That is just the amount of our deficiency for the holiday season. What do you think would be your share of the deficiency for the three months?" "Really I could not say," was the reply, "I will consider it." "Pray do," said the warden; "I hope you enjoyed your trip." "Oh, very much indeed. We all enjoyed it, and benefited greatly in health." "I am very glad to hear it," said this urbane Church officer; "Good morning!" "Good morning!" At the close of the year the deficit of St. Lazarus still stood at \$400. The good Minister's salary also stood—still.

#### BUTTER, EGGS, AND MILK.

This is a more striking heading than Church Home, but Church Home is meant nevertheless. The full purpose of the heading is to give a hint, that may not be forgotten, that old people, who cannot earn a living, need butter, eggs, and milk, quite as much as any of us; and they know how to be thankful for any such gifts as may be sent to the Home, quite as well as any others. It is by no means necessary to limit gifts to the three specified. Housekeepers know, better than the writer of these lines probably, what sort of supplies are most useful in every home. Whatever may be sent to the Home will be welcome and will be thankfully acknowledged. Or, on receiving notice of any gifts intended for the Home, Sister Margaret will send one of the old men for them.

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