

# THE MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN.

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## The Maritime Presbyterian.

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Rev. E. Scott, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

The Philadelphia *Presbyterian* talks thus vigorously regarding debt on the schemes or work of the church:—"There is no fact of common sense more apparent than that it is easier to get one hundred dollars for something to be done, than to howl and weep and utter dark sayings about the calamities to come on the Church if certain debts, contracted, without business caution, are not paid. The Lord loves cheerful givers, but how can they be cheerful in giving to pay the debts resulting from a policy against their best convictions. Heresy is not much worse on the average to a church than debt. Whatever in this world is necessary to be done for Christ can be paid for, he has the wealth, and all that is needed is for his servants to find it, and it will not cost as much labor and expense to get it before as afterwards.

The Free Church of Scotland established a year or two since, a mission at Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee. Now they are appointing another, Mr. Wm. Ewing, who goes out next autumn to join Dr. Tarrance. Thus the gospel is carried back to these shores that so often echoed to the truth as it fell from the lips of Jesus.

## PUNCTUALITY IN ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH.

[For the *Maritime Presbyterian*.

In not a few of our congregations there is great want of punctuality on the part of some in their attendance at God's house. Such persons seem to overlook the fact that harm is wrought by their want of punctuality. Those who have assembled and are sitting in their pews are disturbed, and the preacher is also a good deal harassed by those who come in late. Dr. Talmage in a sermon preached on the 3rd April gives as one of the elements of a live church, punctuality of attendance. His remarks are so pungent and appropriate to some of our congregations that we think they should have a place in the columns of the MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN.

If the service begins at half-past ten o'clock in the morning, the regular congregation of a live church will not come at a quarter to eleven. If the service is to begin at half-past seven in the evening the regular congregation of a live church will not come at a quarter to eight. In some churches I have noticed some people are always tardy. There are some people who are always late. They were born too late and the probability is they will die too late. The rustling of dresses up the aisle and the slamming of doors and the treading of heavy feet is poor inspiration for a minister. It requires great abstraction in a pastor's mind to proceed with the preliminary exercises of the church when one-half of the audience seated are looking around to see the other half come in. Such a difference of attendance upon the house of God may be a difference of time-pieces, but the live church of which I am speaking ought to go by railroad time and that is pretty well understood in all our communities. There is one hymn that ought to be sung in many Christian families on Sabbath morning:

"Early my God without delay  
I haste to seek thy face." X.