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COLLECTION FOR SYNOD FUND.

The Synod has appointed that the collection for the Synod Fund be made on the first Sabbath of August. In cases where it may be inconvenient or impossible to have the collection made on that particular day, it ought to be made as soon thereafter as possible. The object of the collection is to meet the expenses connected with the holding of the Synod, including the travelling expenses of the members; and, as these are considerable, it is hoped that those for whose benefit it is that church courts should be held will feel their own responsibility, and exercise liberality in their contributions.

"WOMAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU?"

These words were addressed to "Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils." She had been sorely oppressed, but in Jesus she had found a deliverer; and, having been the object of much love, she loved much. Trusting in him who had given satisfactory evidence that he had power on earth to forgive sins, she had found rest and peace to her soul. She was a monument of redeeming grace; for the yoke of the oppressor had been broken, she had tasted that the Lord is gracious, and the love of God had been shed abroad in her heart by the Holy Spirit. No doubt, many had followed Jesus who afterwards forsook him—numbers had welcomed him to the hospitality of their table, who had not received him into their hearts; but Mary was drawn to him by the powerful workings of that love which is stronger

than death. It was as having first given herself to the Lord that she attached herself to that small but devoted band who felt honoured in being permitted to minister to him of their substance, while they followed him, listening to the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth, marking with increasing admiration the embodiment of grace that was presented in his life, and becoming daily more confirmed in the heaven-wrought conviction that he was indeed the promised Messiah, the Saviour of Israel.

But believer though she was at the time when she thus waited upon him who as yet was going about continually doing good, at the subsequent stage of her spiritual course in which we here find her when thus addressed, she had still much to learn of her own vileness, of the nature of that work through which deliverance from the condemnation and the power of sin is effected, of the power of the Saviour's love, and of the glory of the Saviour's triumph. We would here indeed sympathise with the affection which brought her thus early to the tomb of Jesus, we would mark with deepest interest the state of mind in which she still lingered near the place where she had so lately seen his body laid, but we would at the same time refer to her case as showing that even believers often fail in apprehending those views which are most fitted to draw forth their tears, and that through the workings of unbelief they not unfrequently weep on those occasions which, if properly understood, would fill their hearts with the liveliest joy.

Look, for instance, to the condition at that time of the guilty inhabitants of Je-