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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, APRIL, 1903

A Thank-Offering of \$20,000,000.

THE Methodist Episcopal Church has raised the final dollar of its Twentieth Century Thank-offering. The first announcement of the success of the fund was made at Trinity Church, Springfield, Mass. Oddly enough it was in this same church the thank-offering movement was started at a meeting of the bishops in the year 1898. No one knows who originated the idea. It seemed to have been working in the minds of many, but was evidently inspired by the million guinea project of Great Britain.

The Rev. Dr. Edmund M. Mills, to whom was entrusted the stupendous task of organizing this movement, says one of the cheering features of this offering is

that it is not the gift of a few millionaires, but that the great bulk of it is made up of the small contributions of the many.

Dr. Mills says another striking feature of his work is the wonderful part played by the sons of Methodist ministers:

"We have found them, these boys of the parsonage—East, West, North, and South—now grown into men of wealth, ready and eager to give to the cause. The father of one man who gave us \$400,000 was a poor Methodist clergyman, whose largest salary was \$400 a year. The son is worth \$20,000,000 to-day, and with one stroke of his pen has given to the Church what his father would have earned in one thousand years."

It is said this fund will save the lives of at least ten of the American colleges, while in the matter of liquidating church debts it has given an uplift that is almost beyond estimation. There is now not a cent against any Methodist Church in the State of Wyoming. The Methodists of New York, Chicago and Cincinnati will soon have their churches free of debt. There is also a fund of \$2,700,000 for philanthropies and charities. Since the fund originated three years ago, ten new hospitals have been founded. Thirty years ago Methodism had but one hospital in the world; to-day she has twenty.

But Methodism does not mean to relax after this herculean achievement. There is still more to do. Said Dr. Mills in closing at that memorable watch-night service:

"The next task is to provide a fund of \$5,000,000 to make the old age of the veterans in the ministry comfortable. In addition to the amount already raised on church debts, we should have \$10,000,000 more. Some of the last words of Joseph Parker: 'The Methodist Church holds the future.'"

But it is not material wealth alone with which the Church has sought to celebrate the incoming of the new century. She has called likewise for the conversion of two million souls. This appeal, so far as we know, has not been so abundantly answered as has the material demand. But no one can estimate the harvest of the effort that is but begun. The daily record of it is locked away in the treasures of God. And we have His never-failing promise:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will

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