

understand there has been some difficulty in adjusting the Torrens system there in force to the needs of religious organizations, the legislation provided seems to be adequate for all existing conditions.

It is a matter of importance, however, for congregations to see to it that vacancies among their trustees, caused by death or removal, should be filled with as little delay as possible. A year or two ago one of the eastern Presbyteries appointed a special Committee to make special inquiry into this matter and found that in a good many instances this had not been done. Sometimes in fact no one connected with the congregation seemed to know anything about their title deeds at all or how their property was held. In the changes taking place in our growing country it is sometimes found desirable to sell church properties. No little difficulty is found in giving proper titles to the purchasers when this matter has been neglected. It would be well for all Presbyteries to institute inquiries on this point from time to time. It may be conveniently done at the induction of a minister, and might form one of the subjects introduced at the Conference usually held with the office-bearers on such occasions.

Another matter even more pressing is the necessity of seeing that all church buildings are kept constantly insured. This is such a simple and sensible method of guarding against the risk of fire that where it is neglected the office-bearers can hardly be acquitted of serious blame. An appeal for help to re-build when such neglect has been shown finds a cold reception and not without reason.

#### ENTHUSIASM IN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

DOES it exist? There exists a measure of interest throughout the churches, but rarely what may be properly called enthusiasm. Wm. Carey was an enthusiast, so was Duff, and Livingstone, and Judson, and Morrison, and MacKay. Jesus Christ was the great enthusiast, who in obedience to the Divine love within Him came and sacrificed Himself for the redemption of a lost world. These men who have largely partaken of His Spirit and sought to walk in His footsteps are called enthusiasts. They exist today, their number increases as the years pass, and the time will come when the whole Church will be as loyal to Him as individuals now are. That time has not yet come. A discussion took place a few days ago within the bounds of the Toronto Presbytery as to the propriety of organizing a Missionary Association within each congregation. The proposal was stoutly resisted on the ground that the congregation is itself a missionary organization and that the organization of an Association within the congregation takes too low ground. That is unquestionably the correct view. The Church exists for the purpose of evangelizing the world, for aggressive purposes, and the sphere of her earthly influence is defined by the circle of the globe. Do we need to repeat that the Church has not yet reached that stage?

Enthusiasm exists in the interests of science and the accretion of wealth. In the interests of politics and national honor how it flames, but in the greatest cause ever entrusted to man, what languid interest, even heartless indifference! During the Civil War the American Nation expended \$2,000,000 a day for four years in order to preserve their national integrity and give liberty to four millions of slaves. She will now spend many hundreds of millions more in order to release one and a half millions of Cubans from the

tyranny of Spain. Yet the whole of this Continent, the United States and Canada combined, give less than six millions a year, for the release of hundreds of millions of souls from the bondage of Satan. That is not Christ-like.

Did ever nation or organization exist that had such ample conditions for enthusiasm? What personality should inspire if He does not who is called the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace! What enterprise ever so stupendous as the salvation of the world! What undertaking has been so successful, the criticisms of the sceptical and bilious notwithstanding! But a limited knowledge of history is necessary to enable all to see that greater than all other influences combined in uplifting humanity has been the silent leaven of the Gospel in the person of the missionary, the man of divine enthusiasm. Men who counted themselves happy in being permitted to pour out their lives for such a Master and in such a cause. We believe the tide is rising. The soil is being prepared and the seed is being sown. The Bible is being translated, European education is clearing the ground, the attention of the educated youth in our colleges is being directed, the prayers of the Church are ascending, the conditions are being fulfilled. The evidences are unmistakable that the next generation will enter upon a reaping time, such as the world has not yet known. *Then shall the sower and the reaper rejoice together*

#### THE TAX EXEMPTION MOVEMENT.

THE movement for the abolition of tax exemption is not at a stand still as may be supposed by some on account of the silence which has prevailed of late with regard to it. It is not even resting, but is actively if quietly pursuing its course, and it behoves the churches who are most heavily interested to take note and to take some action. The latest evidence of the work being done by those who are pushing forward the matter was produced on Monday before the Board of Control of Toronto when various organizations, viz;—the Toronto Ratepayers Association, the Citizens' Tax Municipalization Committee, the Retail Merchants' Association, and the Ontario Tax Exemption Convention, were represented, the spokesman being Dr. Barrick who asked the City to appeal for a change in the Assessment Act whereby all exemptions from municipal taxation shall be abolished. The Board of Control expressed sympathy with the principles advocated by Dr. Barrick and agreed to recommend the City Council to apply for the necessary Legislation.

We shall not discuss the merits or demerits of the abolition of exemption on church property at present; we have done so at some length in the past and will do so in the future when the merits of the question are raised. In the meantime we merely draw attention to what is being done by the abolitionists under the very eye of the interests concerned and that without a single protest from these interests with the solitary exception of the remonstrances of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. There is an obvious neglect of duty somewhere within church circles for we cannot admit without evidence that the Presbyterian Church is either favorably disposed or indifferent to the success of this movement, and we believe that if the leaders were to do their duty before the public there would be an unequivocal response. Time passes by quickly and the case is urgent.