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Editorial

October

October is probably the most important month in the church year. The holidays are over, the pastor is back from his vacation, the depleted congregations of the summer have again reached their normal proportions; practically in many places a new year of work commences with the beginning of this month, which should be regarded as a precious period of opportunity. Every church should have a definite programme of work to be undertaken during the year, which should be opened up with vigor in the early days of this autumn month, if not already begun. A few weeks later will come the holiday distractions, and then there are always chances of severe weather and bad roads in the winter. If October is allowed to pass without anything being done beyond the usual routine, the loss can never be regained. Now is the time for work.

† "The Same Old Five Dollar Bill"

In one of his addresses, Rev. Oliver Darwin, Missionary Superintendent in the West, tells of visiting a western mission which had been drawing from the missionary fund for a number of years. On meeting with the Quarterly Board he endeavored to induce them to assume the responsibility of self-support, and appealed to them on the ground that they were much better off, and living in better style than formerly. "Why, yes, replied one, that is true, we have many comforts and conveniences that we knew nothing of ten years ago."

"How much have your contributions to the church increased?" asked the superintendent. "Well, I am giving the same old five dollar bill," was the reply. The man was easily led to see how unfair this was, and finally promised \$25 per year for the support of the Gospel. Others followed his example, and very soon enough was subscribed to enable the place to declare its independence from the missionary fund.

No doubt there are many people in the church like this man; they do not think of how they have been blessed in material things, and the needs of the church receive scant consideration. In a mechanical and formal way they just give "the same old five dollar bill." If these persons could be led to realize the privilege and opportunity of Christian stewardship, and if they would act upon the scriptural principle of giving "as God has prospered" them, the church would have full treasures, and the Kingdom of Christ would go forward as it has never done in the past.

4. Monotony in Church Work

There is the same tendency to monotony in other directions. In some Epworth Leagues the "same old way" of conducting the prayer-meeting has been in vogue ever since the society was organized, and the Sunday School has not introduced any new methods in the last half dozen years. While business men are alert to get hold of the very latest and best appliances for doing their work, and constantly show enterprise and enthusiasm in carrying on their undertakings, there are churches, not a few, that jog along in the old beaten track and nobody ever thinks of advocating any change.

The Quarterly Board meets in orthodox fashion, and somebody moves that the pastor's salary be the same as last year; nobody takes into account the increased cost of living; nobody asks whether the congregation might not do better, but the standard of last year is considered about the right thing. So it goes in other matters. There are some good people who have been offering "the same old prayer" in the prayer-meeting for years. What a blessing it would be if some "Oliver Darwin" would come along and disturb their slumbers.

The Value of Testimony

A correspondent writes calling attention to an article entitled, "Need Not Speak About It," which appeared in the August number of this paper, on "The Quiet Hour" page. He thinks that it is likely to be misinterpreted. Here are a few of the sentences from said article: "Real goodness needs no proclamation." "Real holiness does not announce its existence as a show." "The pure white lily lives its beauty without speaking of it." Our correspondent says: "Will this not be interpreted as a blow to our testimony meetings? I regret anything that might be regarded as an excuse for silence." We do not think the author of this article had any such thought. He simply discourages the boastful proclamation of our own goodness, and indicates that the holy life will make itself felt without being talked about. This is a very different thing from a humble testimony concerning the great