

so as to make a regular if moderate annual increase in their contributions for pastoral support; if Presbyteries exercise due caution in the erection of missions stations into congregations, and in the division of existing congregations; if they take order that even congregations which have fulfilled the conditions be not recommended to a place on the supplemented list without the most satisfactory evidence that they are contributing as largely as they might be fairly expected to contribute; and if the supplementing committee were clothed with such additional power as would enable them to secure the fulfillment of these conditions it is believed that it would be quite possible to realize an amount from year to year which would secure the continuance of the minimum to all our pastors. Your committee would however at this early stage in the history of the Augmentation movement desire to describe the prospects of permanent success with caution.

They would commit the cause which they have at heart to Him who has so freely shed abroad the spirit of liberality during the past year, and they would pray "The Lord keep this thing forever in the imaginations of the thoughts of the heart of His people and prepare their hearts unto Himself."

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. MCCURDY,
Convener.

FUTURE PUNISHMENT.

The doctrine of endless punishment is Christ's doctrine. I will leave it to any intelligent reader whether there is anything more terrible than the words which Jesus Christ says he will address to a certain class of men who will stand up in his left hand on the day of judgement: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Hell is not my invention. Neither the Christian ministry nor the Christian church are responsible for the tenet. The alleged "fiendishness" of the dogma, clings, if to any one, to the Redeemer of sinners and the Judge of the world. If he had not taught it, it is absolutely certain that his ministers never would.

The real collision, therefore, is between the denier of the doctrine and God incarnate, and not between him and the Christian church. Exasperation against endless retribution is exasperation against God. Hatred of the tenet is hatred of its Divine author. When a minister

preaches the doctrine of endless punishment he is only Christ's mouthpiece. St. Paul says that when he beseeches men "to be reconciled to God" he is merely an "ambassador of Christ," and does it "in Christ's stead." It is equally true that when a Christian minister entreates his fellow-men "to flee from the wrath to come" he does it in Christ's room and place. Christ, in his own person, and with his own lips, once said: "I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: fear him who after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell. Yes, I say unto you, fear him." And his disciples simply repeat his words for him, now that he is no longer upon earth to do it himself. Opponents of the doctrine of retribution should use their common sense, and state the case fairly. It is unreasonable for them to try to fasten their odium against the doctrine upon their fellow-creatures, who have no sort of responsibility for it. *Prof. W. G. T. Shedd.*

A PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MAINE.

A New Presbyterian church has just been organized in the State of Maine, the first church of our order in the State. Nearly thirty years ago an effort was made to establish a Presbyterian church in Portland, but it was not successful. The money then raised has been kept at interest, and now amounts to about \$2 000. The Boston Presbytery, at its last meeting, received a petition asking for the organization of a church, and appointed Dr. Wallace, of Newburyport, and Mr. Robert Gilchrist, of Boston, a committee to visit Portland, which they did in company with Rev. A. Baird, Synodical Missionary. A church was organized with twenty seven members, of whom eleven were received in profession of faith in Christ. Three elders were chosen, Kenneth McDonald, Donald Gunn and Allen McKinnon, and were ordained. The church is to be known as the First Presbyterian church of Portland, Maine.—*Phil. Pres.*

It is good to see the Presbyterian Church extending lengthening its cords in New England. While there were in the first church in Maine, in connection with the American Presbyterian church, it is not the first or only Presbyterian church in the State. There is a church and a flourishing congregation at Houlton in the north of Maine, belonging to the Presbytery of St. John, N. B., ministered to by Rev. Kenneth McKay.