

THE BUDGET.

The Conveners of the several Boards and Committees having respectively presented their estimates of expenditure for the current year, we are now in a position to judge of the magnitude and importance of the work to which the Church is committed. Mr. McLaren asks \$25,000 for Foreign Missions undertaken by the western section of the Church, and Mr. McGregor, \$12,726 for those under the direction of the eastern section—i. e. \$37,726 is wanted for Foreign Missions. For Home Missions, Dr. Cochrane, on behalf of the western section asks for \$35,000: the eastern section may require say \$8000, making \$43,000 for Home Missions proper. This amount is understood to cover supplementary grants to congregations requiring assistance and to the College in Manitoba. Dr. McVicar pleads for \$10,000 for French Evangelization. The amount required for Home and Foreign Missions is therefore \$90,726 for the ecclesiastical year. If to this be added \$28,000 for the maintenance of four theological colleges, we reach the sum total of \$118,726—a fairly respectable amount to begin with. But it is nothing to boast of, much less to cause discouragement. It is not by any means to be regarded as coming up to the "mark" of our ability. Those who at the first blush may be disposed to regard this sum as a burden too heavy for young shoulders to bear, underestimate the resources and capabilities of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We are spending a million of dollars a year, and nine-tenths of that amount goes for the support of *our own* Ministers, for the erection of commodious, comfortable, and, in some instances, magnificent churches *for ourselves*. When all shall be found acting in accordance with "the golden rule,"

congregations of average ability will be found giving at least as much for the spread of religion in this and other lands as they contribute for their own congregational purposes.

But, in the mean time, if it be the day of small things with us, by all means let us make the most of it, and the best of it. If information is withheld from the people as to the wants of the Church, and as to what is done with money already contributed, the fault lies at somebody's door. If this information is supplied in a perfunctory manner by simply reading a convener's circular from the pulpit, the fault lies at somebody's door. If the benefactions of a congregation are made dependent upon a "collection to be taken" on a given day,—let it rain or shine—again the fault lies at somebody's door. There must be enthusiasm in the pulpit before there will be much enthusiasm in the pew. There must be a systematic plan of operations, so thoroughly worked out as that every individual member of a church shall, in relation to its finances, be of *some account*. Our Philadelphian namesake says truly that the church needs more MOMENTUM. "One half the professed Christians," it goes on to say, "amount to nothing. They go to church. They pay pew rents. They have a kind regard for all religious institutions. But as to any firm grip of the truth, any enthusiastic service for Christ, any cheerful self-denial, any overmastering prayer, any capacity to strike hard blows for God, they are a failure. One of two things these half-and-half professors ought to do—either withdraw their names from the church-roll, or else go so near the fire as to get warm. Do you not know that your present position is an absurdity? You profess to be living for God and heaven, but all the world knows you are