

## The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21  
23, 25, American Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be  
addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2461, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES - Under 3 months, 15 cents per line  
per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line;  
1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines.  
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Toronto, May 20, 1894.

### Falling Off in the Funds.

A DETERMINED effort should yet be put forth to raise the sum required by some of the funds of the Church, before the books have been finally closed for the Assembly reports. The Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund shows a decrease, and Rev. Dr. Cochrane has not yet been put in funds to meet the requirements of his work. Now, all are ready to admit the hard times we are passing through. Times are hard; and to some times will ever be so; but to others times are good. To some the times are always good. Let those who profess to have received the Spirit of Christ and a newness of heart look to their lives, and to their professions. Praise on their lips and deadness in their hearts they will find. There is no use burking the question. A large majority of our church members give but the merest mite to the schemes of the Church, and probably they cannot give more, but there is a substantial minority who can give a hundred times as much as they now choose to give, and they certainly sin against the light. They are dead or dormant. The Christianity which cannot lift the soul from a greater love for dollars than for souls, is of a questionable quality. When a blessing from on high waters the Church her members will come forth joyfully bearing gifts of their best to enrich the treasury of God; an outward sign of deep thankfulness in the heart. It behooves the Church to consider seriously the present decline in the grace of liberality, and pray earnestly that less worldly days may soon dawn upon those of her rich members who are indifferent, or flint-hearted.

### The Toronto Conference.

To the average church member it may naturally enough appear that the Conference preceeding the meeting of Synod is more important than is the work of the Synod itself. On the one hand, there is an interchange of ideas on questions of the greatest importance - fundamental questions to the life and work of the church; on the other there is the orderly routine, the measured beat of overtures and reports, figures, facts, documents and red tape, dry to the longing soul, when compared to the unction of the refreshing words that flow from earnest, loving fathers met in Conference. Of course it must not be forgotten that the dry facts and figures of Synod have histories, romantic, pathetic, inspiring histories too, but they are hidden from the common view. It takes some close study of the wider fields and some skill to grasp and squeeze the sweet, or mayhap the bitter from the prickly numeral flowers successfully, but it is easy and enjoyable to be led by

a competent guide, over the problems of your own life, over your difficulties and your dangers. The Conference then is more popular than the average Synod, and that held in Toronto this week was particularly so. It goes without saying that a great deal depends on wise and capable arrangements beforehand. These were apparent. Take for instance the leading speakers. On Monday evening the Conference was opened with a paper on "The Holy Spirit in Our Personal Life and Work," by Rev. W. Farquharson, B.A., of Claude. This paper of itself was worth a special meeting for its consideration. It touched the very marrow of Christian life and living. But it was followed next day by addresses on "Helps and Hindrances to Deeper Spiritual Life," by Rev. J. K. Smith, D.D.; "The Missionary Outlook at Home," by Rev. E. D. Pelletier, Webbwood; and "The Missionary Outlook Abroad," by Rev. S. H. Eastman, M.A., Oshawa. It goes without saying that these addresses were able presentations of weighty truths, and the easy discussion by those present was not less interesting.

### Moderator MacInnes' Address.

In this issue will be found the concluding part of the address of the Moderator of the New South Wales Assembly, Rev. G. MacInnes, M.A., B.D. It is quite unnecessary to state that this journal does not stand sponsor for the views expressed in Mr. MacInnes' address. We judged it well to publish the sermon so that our readers might know how the current of thought is flowing in the Australian Church. Few Canadians have the means of following closely the trend in the Antipodes, and it is well that they should be kept familiar with the outstanding features of the thought in all the branches of the Presbyterian Church. While Mr. MacInnes' words will by no means find a unanimous response in his own Church, it must be remembered that he is a representative man, a man highly respected among his people, and a man who has been placed by the Church in the Moderator's chair. His opinions are tolerated and believed in by not a few, but notwithstanding that fact, he has been subjected to severe criticism by others. A correspondent writing from Sydney, says:—"The members of the Presbyterian Church Assembly at present in session in Sydney, have been greatly exercised by the tone of the inaugural address of the new Moderator (the Rev. G. MacInnes, M.A. B.D.), which took everyone by surprise. Mr. MacInnes chose for his theme, "The Bible—a Sufficient Witness to the 'Self-evidencing Christ.'" The title is all that can be desired, but it is misleading; for Mr. MacInnes tries to discredit the "Sufficient Witness" by declaring that the Bible as a "verbally inspired and inerrant code of rules" can no longer be maintained, and calls upon the "Fathers and Brethren" to prepare for the change which, he says, has already been made by Christian scholars, and must soon be made by Christian people. Not merely does he try to prove that the Bible cannot be verbally inspired, but that it cannot be considered trustworthy as an historical record. After the delivery of the address several ministers recorded their dissent from what had been said. In most of the pulpits of the Presbyterian Church next Lord's Day reference was made to it, the majority declaring that they had no sympathy whatever with its teaching. The address