

The time has come when parents are obliged to consider how their daughters may best be fitted for the larger opportunities which are now being presented to them. We heartily recommend the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Ottawa, as an institution well qualified to furnish a thorough and efficient training, and we venture to predict for it a career of increasing prosperity.

THE FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

IN another column appears a statement, by the Foreign Mission Secretary, as to the present condition of the Foreign Mission Fund. We are within a few days of the end of the ecclesiastical year, and there is naturally more or less anxiety on the part of the agents of the church as to how the accounts will stand. That interest is shared by many who have earnestly laboured and prayed that the Church might be delivered from dishonour by a retreat from the position she has already taken. We heartily endorse the view that interest in Foreign Missions has an invigorating influence upon all other departments of Christian work. To deny that, seems to us, a reflection upon Him who laid upon the Church the unconditional command. He never gave a command, obedience to which would injure our lives individually or nationally. The reverse is true. The broader outlook is the more Christlike and therefore the more healthful. That can be established beyond contradiction by facts of congregational as well as individual experience. We therefore long to see the day, that is surely coming, when "the world's evangelization" will become the battle cry of a united Church. Then shall the Church at home be glorious. "The Gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising"—It is thus, not for merely sentimental reasons we urge that within the next ten days the present indebtedness may be wiped out. Deficits are unpleasant things but this is not the worst—they are the expression of a disobedience that robs the Church of her spiritual privileges—they fasten the windows that otherwise might be opened. Any congregation that fails in duty will, as the secretary says, 'hinder the cause for which Christ died—the evangelization of the world,' and he might have added 'will thereby hinder the church at home.'

CHURCH BUSINESS.

IT is often said that Church affairs are not conducted upon business principles. In one sense this is not to be regretted, because it is well known that the methods of business, like those of politics, are frequently rotten and morally indefensible. But if it can be made clear that the Lord's business is done in a slovenly manner, that is a shame and a sin, for the Apostolic rule is "Let every thing be done decently and in order."

We would be slow to indulge in fault finding. It is easy to fall into this strain of dogmatic assertion, and to say smart things about the shortcomings of fellow creatures. This is a cheap form of destructive criticism. Our wish is rather to be helpful, and to point out where improvement is easily possible. It is far from correct to say that Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies do not know how to expedite business. Impartial observers have often expressed their admiration of the tact and ability shown in these courts. They have testified that the speaking in them, as a rule, is marked by far more culture and logical conclusiveness than what is usual on the floor of Parliament. And in the matter of avoiding waste of time, personalities, and irrelevant claptrap, the advantage is immensurable in favor of Church courts. Our General Assembly in ten days

deals successfully with important reports, formulates decisions regarding grave and complicated issues, and transacts an amount of business that would occupy the Dominion Parliament for months.

At the same time we are far from being perfect. Our Polity, our Rules and Forms of Procedure are excellent. They are the outcome of long and varied experience. They call for accuracy in the minutest details, and are admirably fitted to secure freedom and justice to all concerned. It is in the practical execution of these rules that failures occur. Conveners of standing and special committees complain that they are greatly embarrassed because information which ministers, elders, deacons and managers are requested to supply, is not forthcoming at the proper time. Statistical returns are sometimes not furnished, and are often incomplete and too late. Many congregations contribute absolutely nothing to not a few of the departments of Christian work approved and commended by the General Assembly. It is said that this is largely due to the fact that pastors and ministers fail to give necessary information regarding the work of the Church and to appeal to their people for the support of the same. It seems that congregational treasurers are occasionally dilatory in forwarding to their destination sums of money voted for specific purposes. When this form of neglect becomes somewhat general it compels the Treasurers of Boards to pay interest for money borrowed to meet their engagements, and thus diminishes their legitimate revenue.

Are not Sessions and Presbyteries able to remedy these and other irregularities? Our ecclesiastical machinery is ample, but it requires to be faithfully worked.

MORMONISM IN ONTARIO.

UNDER the above caption a respected minister of the church last week gave his experience in combatting the Mormon propaganda which is being pushed in Western Ontario. Our correspondent laid bare the methods by which the Mormon emissaries make headway in capturing the people, and he is quite right in attributing much of the success so far gained to ignorance of the root doctrines of the Mormons. But from other sources of information—letters from persons who have been asked for information—we gather that the main danger lies from a lack of pastoral interest in the people. "There are many people who are never visited by ministers or church workers, and these fall an easy prey," one writes. There is a sad story in these few words. The people are being neglected and they give ear to the tempter's persuasive tongue. As to the suggestion that we should publish facts regarding Mormonism, we shall do so, and we in turn suggest that ministers be up and doing as faithful shepherds of the flock and let them also expose Mormonism and its errors whenever they have an opportunity of doing so.

Mr. John Morley, says the *Belfast Witness*, is not understood to be a Christian believer. But he is acknowledged to be a man of ability and wide information. Speaking recently at the opening of a new University Settlement in London, after the model of Toynbee Hall, he said "The danger of Churches is formalism, of State action officialism, and the drawback of many modern ideas was that they rest upon materialism, and a soulless secularism." Thus John Morley is found among the prophets. Would he be for the teaching of the Bible in all public schools? If religion is left out of the daily school teaching, it would appear to most people to favour materialism and secularism very decidedly.