

Hymnal had expired on December 31st 1894, it would not be renewed but that the Executive Committee would publish for the Church. The middleman's profits which it is believed to have been of considerable amount, will thus be saved for the Church funds, and the membership will have the satisfaction of a good service at reasonable prices.

**Prisoners Aid Association.** We cheerfully draw attention to a small pamphlet published by the Prisoners Aid Association of Canada, containing an account of the objects of the association and the good work it is quietly accomplishing among a class of fellow-men and women whose brand of crime can only be washed off by the blood which maketh whiter than snow.

**Death of a Noted Missionary.** Much regret is experienced in mission-ary circles at home and abroad on account of the news recently received by telegraph announcing the death, at Batanga, of Rev. Dr. A. C. Good, the noted explorer and missionary. He was employed by the American Board of Foreign Missions since 1882 and soon became an expert in the African tribal languages reducing some of them, as is usual for missionaries, to writing. He was only forty years of age.

**Federation of the Reformed Churches.** The proposed federation of the Reformed Churches in the United States is meeting with varying fortune. Here a Presbytery cordially approves of it, there a Presbytery concurs in reasons why it ought to be opposed. But it is too soon to seek a forecast of the probable result. The question is one which has drawn to its side much sympathy and support that will not readily abandon so good a cause. It is also noteworthy that the objections urged, so far, have been mainly of a technical nature.

**The Home Study Quarterly.** The New Teachers Monthly has been issued, the number for the first quarter of this year coming to hand last week. The Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath school Committee, Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., whose indefatigable efforts on behalf of the Sabbath School are known and appreciated, throughout the church, has succeeded in producing a lesson help which bears on every page evidence of industry and careful labor. We cannot too strongly urge on all interested in Sabbath School work to procure copies and to study the lessons.

**State of Church Funds.** Dr. Reid gives the following comparative statement of receipts up to the 5th Jan'y. 1894—and the 5th Jan'y. 1895.

	Jan'y. 5 1894	Jan'y. 5, 1895
Assembly Fund.....	\$ 718 55	\$ 864 34
Home Missions.....	12,547 82	18,080 23
Augmentation.....	3,363 77	2,821 22
Foreign Missions....	18,157 99	13,392 29
Widow's Fund.....	936 11	1,445 32
Widow's Fund, Rates.....	1,632 82	1,648 58
Aged & Infirm Min't's Fund.	1,398 47	1,304 45
Aged & Infirm Min't's Rates.	2,042 66	2,219 48
Manitoba College.....	428 22	340 15

It is encouraging to find considerable advance in some of the schemes, whilst others, notably the Foreign Missions, are nearly \$5,000, behind the amount received at this date last year. But congregational meetings will be held within a few weeks and the situation will be better known. Let us hope that the returns will give cause for rejoicing.

**The Late Rev. Principal Alex. McKnight, of Halifax, D.D.** appears in the current number of the Presbyterian and Reformed Review, from the graceful pen of Rev. Dr. Caven. He pays just tribute to the late Principal's scholarship, his ability and success as a teacher, placing the class-room as the sphere in which his greatest service has been rendered. "His memory," says Dr. Caven, "will be cherished by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and very specially by the considerable number of ministers who sat at his feet, and who cannot forget the high qualities of their teacher and friend."

#### CONGREGATIONAL SINGING,

The question of congregational singing has a perennial interest, and at the present time it in an especial manner, invites the attention of the church on account of the preparation of the new Hymnal. We have given liberal and well-bestowed space to the discussion of the Hymnal and public praise, and in the correspondence evoked, there have been many valuable suggestions, one, which we have decided to act upon, being an enquiry as to how congregational singing fares in the larger cities, under the methods now in vogue. Beginning with Toronto, we purpose to send a commissioner to representative, if not to all the Presbyterian Churches in the city with instructions to write a brief description of the service of praise. He will pay particular attention to the manner in which the congregation joins in that service. The harmony which ought to exist between the leading parts of the diet of worship—the prayers, preaching and praise will be noticed, the choice of tunes, the rendering by the choir, the work of the organist, the solos, the anthems, and where possible and expedient notes on the history of the music will be made, but the main object of the articles will be to lay before the reader how far the congregation seems to enter into the spirit of the song worship of the sanctuary. We have been fortunate in securing the services of a gentleman in every respect qualified for such an important task as that here outlined. The qualifications, it will be admitted by those who can appreciate the duty, require to be, not only of a high standard but to embrace the good judgment, and sympathy with the work, and appreciation of the higher motives in the worship of praise, which will guide to fair and adequate conclusions. We believe that in the gentleman commissioned to act for us in this matter, we have found one possessing the necessary qualities of head and heart, and that being so he will be untrammelled by editorial control in his work. We have every confidence in his ability and high purpose in undertaking this work and feel that the interest of the congregations he will visit and of the subject he will deal with, will be safe in his. The articles will appear regularly beginning in our next issue and the congregations may look forward to plain and profitable talk on the important subject referred to.