

in this one department have amounted to \$4,500,000—nearly the entire Five Million Fund—is calculated to awaken an attention that cannot soon be diverted. It is the beginning only of a work which must be continued when the Memorial occasion shall have passed away. Even those who have been appealed to in vain for present gifts will remember the object in their wills. The whole subject of Christian education has come up for revision. A new era has begun."

More than one million dollars have been raised during the year for new church edifices. Of these, very few are of the costlier sort. Fully one-half, including mission-chapels in the cities, are believed to be of the class requiring public aid; while a large proportion of the other half are of moderate expense, and were greatly needed though not requiring assistance. Who shall estimate the value of these monuments of re-union? The fact that they are widely scattered may render them all the more acceptable in the sight of God; they more closely resemble His own widespread and unostentatious blessings. Besides, they are the monuments of the people, reared among the people, and speaking to them and their children everywhere in perpetual commemoration.

During the same period "church debts have probably been paid to the amount of one million at least. Debts, it may be objected, "are something that the people *would have paid any way.*" And yet many of these old clogs had hung upon the churches a quarter of a century. Many a pastor, even in some of the stronger churches, had carried a dead weight of this kind through all, or nearly all his ministerial course. In point of fact there is nothing which it is so natural to postpone as the payment of a church debt. It is vastly easier to take a certain amount of interest money from the annual income, or withhold it from the footings of benevolence, than to arise and cut off the chains at once. The most serious burdens are felt by the poorer churches in this respect. In hundreds of cases the question of a few hundred dollars of interest money is the turn-

ing point between success or a crippled helplessness—sometimes almost tipping the scale of existence or non-existence of a church. When any sanctuary dedicated to God is mortgaged for half its value, no offering can be more appropriate than to pay the debt, and thus dedicate the other half. It is therefore a blessed impulse that arouses an entire denomination to a common effort to thus relieve their churches. It is as when the greater and smaller craft in some low-tide harbour—nearly all more or less careened and stuck in the mud—are suddenly raised and righted by the incoming tide, and stand trim and staunch, and ready for action. Such has been the effect of the Presbyterian Memorial tide of 1870 and '71."

"*Parsonages, church repairs and enlargements, hospitals, publication buildings,* have shared it is thought, another million of the funds thus far raised. But it is not to be understood that the work is complete in any one of the above departments. If many pastors have been provided with comfortable homes, many more are yet without them; hundreds of congregations are still destitute of a house of worship of any kind."

In our church similar work has to be done—manses to be built, debts paid, churches erected, college funds enlarged and missions extended. We cannot raise Five Millions like our brethren in the United States, but we have resources enough to do much more than we have ever yet accomplished.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

One of the most precious boons which God has seen fit to bestow upon man was the institution of the Sabbath. The setting apart of this hallowed day after the completion of the great work of creation, was for the purpose of pointing out to us the duty of labouring six days and resting one. This arrangement of labouring so many days and resting one was made by God, receives the sanction of his example, and is well suited to man's wants and capacities. Man requires a day of rest, a day especially