

Out of a total of \$1,519,315 in promises to the Thanksgiving Fund, \$1,455,605 have been paid. When the report is published the difference between the promises and the payments will be represented by a small sum.

The New Orleans *Advocate* says, "Revival fires are burning, and our Zion is renewing her strength. The old power is attending the Gospel, conversions are multiplying, and many are added to the household of faith."

BOOK NOTICES.

The Royal Readers. Special Canadian Series. Books I to V. Toronto: Thos. Nelson & Sons, and James Campbell & Son.

It is a striking proof of the educational progress of Canada, that such a high-class series of Readers has been prepared for use in our schools. Although there may be no royal road to learning, yet the Royal Readers have made that road exceedingly attractive and pleasant. The easy graded lessons, the beautiful engravings, the interesting stories and sketches, and the choice poems, make study a delight, instead of a drudgery. What we specially admire, both in the text and illustration, is the distinctively national character of the series. The object of the Editors seems to have been sedulously to cultivate loyalty and love of country. Sketches of Canadian history, and of Canadian life and character, illustrations of Canadian scenery, and selections from Canadian authors, all combine in promoting this result. Among the Canadian authors cited are: Sangster, Heavysege, D'Arcy McGee, Principal Grant, Principal Bryce, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Dr. Dawson, Hon. Joseph Howe, W. G. Rattray, William Kirby, John Reade, Mrs. Jameson, Hon. George Brown, J. C. Dent, Miss Machar, Dr. Scadding, Goldwin Smith, J. M. Lemoine, W.

H. Williams, Professor Macoun, Dr. Ryerson, Dr. Dewart, Dr. Punshon, Mrs. Lauder, Rev. Hugh Johnston, and others. The present writer felt flattered to find an extract from his "Catacombs" quoted.

Special pains are also taken to make young readers familiar with the great writers of our language—including many recent writers not often quoted in reading books—as Carlyle, Ruskin, Froude, Motley, Lingard, Green, Helps, Freeman, Lecky, DeQuincey, Tyndall, Huxley, and our recent poets, the Brownings, the Rossettis, Swinburne, Clough, Morris, Dobell, Arnold, Kingsley, Lowell, Whittier, Holmes, as well as our great classical bards and prose-writers. The later books of the series might be called, in this respect, "Half-hours with the Best Authors," and will prove interesting and instructive reading for the home as well as school.

We have no sympathy with the outcry against a new series of Readers on the ground of the expense of the books. They are such a vast improvement on the old series that there is no comparison between them. Books are the cheapest things one buys. Apart from their educational value, these are worth the money for the pleasure they will give. The illustrations alone, by Giacomelli and other eminent artists,