

not avow, have this advantage, that it is necessarily difficult to prove by figures that they are wrong. It is noticeable that the charge alluded to is made principally by those exceptions who prove the rule—the few ministers who, having been carried away by admiration of the “liberalism” of which they speak, try to justify their own lapses by declaring that they are no more lax, but only more honest and outspoken, thinkers than other men are.—*Congregationalist*.

THE KEY-NOTE.—Many a time it is felt, and often it is expressed—the benefit of a “key-note” in a prayer-meeting. One felicitous thought or expression that seemed to express the inmost feelings of the others present, roused them all to the same mental activity, and led them along the same path of expression and feeling. Now, why not have a good “key-note” to a meeting every time? Let the pastor think of it; let the prayer-meeting leaders think of it. Call to mind God’s mercies; and call to mind the special needs of the hour and the church, and spread these out before the Lord. Others will follow, and get a blessing.

IT WAS ONCE a much-debated question whether “a man’s occupation,” when he was a drink-seller, should stand in the way of his becoming a church member. The question is nearly settled now. A traffic that ruins body and soul cannot be a part of a life that is found in Christ. Mr. Mackay, the elect of the McCrie-Roxburgh church, at a temperance demonstration in Glasgow, said he never had admitted, and he never would admit, a drink-seller to church membership. He would say to the drink-sellers, “Make your choice; stand inside the Church with Christ and His people, or go outside with the devil and drink.”

THE recent wiping out of a troublesome debt by the Rochester (Mich.) church was effected by means of the blackboard, or map plan, the pastor, Rev. William Hollinshed, making a diagram with as many small squares as there were dollars of debt. Then when any one made a subscription a number of squares was marked off equal to the number of dollars subscribed; twenty-five dollars, for example, canceling twenty-five squares. This appeal to the eye was kept for inspection at

the church, where many came during the week asking for sections, until at length all were taken. The condition that none of the subscriptions would be held unless the whole amount was pledged, was felt to be a most important help in carrying the matter through.—*Cong.*

ABOUT the time this number of the magazine reaches the homes of its readers, the brethren of the churches, ministers and delegates, will be getting ready for the annual meeting of the Congregational Union, at the pleasant little City of Brantford. Four times before, the Union has held its meetings there; and every time they were good and successful meetings; refreshing to the members of the Union, stimulating to the Church, and strengthening to the denomination. Let the ministers and delegates come, prepared to do wisely and liberally; one in spirit and aim, and full of enthusiasm and hope concerning the Lord’s work put in their hands to do. And let the members be the bearers of large contributions, both to the Union fund proper, and to our Missionary College, and benevolent enterprises.

THERE is much to be said for Archdeacon Farrar’s view in this month’s *Expositor*, that there was a previous relationship between most of the Apostles and our Lord. If so, the fact is full of valuable suggestion. As Galilean youths, they would hear of the years of Christ’s life before His ministry commenced. They may have been so impressed as to desire that He should manifest Himself to the world, and, when called to follow Him, have instantaneously complied. Such a probable state of things—and only thus do we refer to it—would be in harmony with the effect we may be sure the life of Jesus produced during those thirty years of which it has pleased God that so little should be recorded. The obedience to His call of those who knew Him earlier would thus go to confirm the Gospel history.—*Christian*.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—In the Montreal Presbytery, the following action was taken:

After there had been read the reply of the Privy Council to the Presbytery’s petition of January last, for the disallowance of the Jesuits’ Estates Bill, the Presbytery adopted the following resolution on motion of Rev. Principal MacVicar, seconded by Rev. Dr. Campbell, the Moderator dissenting: