

## INTERESTING NEW DEPARTURE

Cooke's church Toronto, is making an experiment, by giving its praise service into the hands of a layman of standing, with abilities, training and spirit somewhat analogous to those of Mr. Sankey, co-labourer with Mr. Moody. In addition to making it his special business to have the praise service as religiously effective as possible he will be a general assistant to the pastor. We are impressed favorably with the arrangement. The power of a perfect praise service is but half appreciated. As a helper, a lay assistant has some advantages over even a clerical associate. Speaking of assistants in general, the Episcopalians cover a large amount of what they call parish work in cities by means of associate help; it is undoubtedly congregationally profitable.

The first instalment of an interesting article, entitled "Routine of Mission Work in Formosa" is given in another part of this paper. Mr. Thurlow Fraser tells his story with graphic directness; and our readers, we are certain, will like Topsy, Cry for more.

The Quakers of the United States last year held their own; indeed, made a slight increase. In their own way these estimable people fight a good fight against a prevailing world-spirit and in favor of the simple life; their testimony against war and the liquor traffic is also pronounced and useful. But for their difficulty in holding their young people, their statistics would show up better.

The veteran editor of the Orillia Packet knows a good thing at sight. Of a publication well known to our readers, he says: "The best Canadian missionary periodical that reaches this office is the Presbyterian Record, issued monthly in Montreal. We see that some sessions are placing it in every family in their congregations. This is a good investment for the church and its missions." True, every word of it!

It is a sad commentary upon Russian Christianity, says the Presbyterian Standard, that our American missionaries in Korea would have much more to hope for by way of toleration from a Japanese than from a Russian occupant of the "Hermit Nation." But the fate of Finland is warning that the Russian Church is as intolerant as it is corrupt. In the conflict which may be imminent or for a time postponed, let us not forget the missionaries in Korea, especially our own Southern Presbyterian missionaries. The people of Canada must not forget their missionaries in Korea are all from among the Presbyterians of the maritime provinces.

Canadian Good Housekeeping for February opens with a bright article by Faith Fernon on housekeeping in the Yukon which will be of special interest to Canadian women. The general short stories in the number are all good, but perhaps the most amusing is that entitled "Afternoon Tea in which we see the amazement of 'Grandma Turnbull' at a fashionable reception. There are the usual helpful articles on various housekeeping topics, and altogether this opening number of the new year is an excellent one, Dominion Photos, Toronto.

## STATE OF THE FUNDS.

The following comparative statement shows the receipts for the respective Funds on 20th February, 1903 and 1904.

	1903	1904
Home Missions Fund.....	\$87,331 00	\$94,632 87
Augmentation.....	17,594 18	15,375 94
Foreign Missions.....	44,714 26	45,574 31
French Evangelization.....	15,805 49	16,184 72
Pointe-aux-Trembles.....	7,768 00	7,570 15
Assembly.....	3,719 26	3,181 22
Widows & Orphans.....	8,506 31	7,237 32
Agod & Native Ministers.....	6,991 49	6,993 72
Knox College.....	4,537 25	3,916 07
Queen's College.....	1,503 01	2,443 36
Montreal College.....	1,925 32	1,709 97
Manitoba College.....	2,904 00	2,713 07

From the above statement it will be observed that the receipts for several of the Funds are considerably less than at the corresponding period last year. This is especially true of Home Missions, Augmentation and the Widows' and Orphan's Fund. While the Home Mission receipts are \$2,760 less than last year, the expenditure is about \$12,000 in excess. The Augmentation Fund is \$2,000 short of last year, while the expenditure is nearly \$6,000 greater. The Widows' and Orphan's Fund receipts are \$1,300 less than last year.

The long continued cold, and the blocked roads in the country are interfering considerably with contributions. I had a letter from a minister, last week in which he expressed his fear that the contributions from his congregation would be less than formerly. Two days ago, I had another letter from him in which he says "One or two men took in the situation and contributed about \$100 more than last year, so that my fears were disappointed. If all the other congregations would do likewise, the snow storms might be defied." I have no doubt that, in many other congregations, friends will act in a similar manner.

The Superintendents of our Home Missions in the West, report 47 new fields which must be opened immediately. With two exceptions, these are all in Manitoba and the North West Territories. It is exceedingly important, when the committee meets on the 8th March that the state of the Fund will warrant them in opening up these fields. Last year, we had about 180 individuals or congregations specially supporting missionaries in the North West. The lessened income this year is owing, to some extent, to the fact that a number of these have discontinued their contribution, not having been committed to support a missionary for any definite period of years. The average expense of an ordained missionary in the West, over and above the contributions of the people in his field, is \$250 per annum. Are there not 47 congregations or individuals who will come to the rescue of the committee in this juncture, and agree in the next ten days to become responsible for the support of these new fields, if occupied by our Church? The Committee meets on 8th March. It is greatly to be desired that the state of the fund will admit of the opening of every one of these fields. The Foreign Mission Fund is likely to be very greatly behind, and it is hoped that those congregations that have agreed to meet, in whole or in part the salaries of missionaries, may

find it convenient to forward their money before the month ends.

The year closes on Monday next, 29th inst. All contributions should be forwarded so as to reach the office of the church before that date. R. H. W.

The attention of Sunday schools and young peoples societies is called to the work of the Canadian Reading Camp Association in a circular letter to the Superintendents and presidents of these organizations. The object is a worthy one and is endorsed by Principal Caven, Chancellor Wallace, Dr. Cleaver, Bishop Thornloe, and many other prominent men.

## Sparks From Other Anvils.

S. S. Times:—"Don't you think that my teacher is the best teacher that ever lived?" asked a little boy in the mission school of his superintendent. That spoke well for the boy, but it spoke even better for the teacher. The boy's teacher evidently so gave love that he won it. He had performed his duty of being loved.

Religious Intelligencer:—"To the question: 'Why are not more souls saved by preaching?' Dr. Herrick Johnson answers, 'Because of the defective Christian life of many professed followers of Christ.' It is a serious thing—a grievous sin, to stand in the way of a soul's salvation.

Christian Guardian:—"That idea of government which defines it as the method of securing the greatest good for the greatest number is the only one that will bear analysis. What the country needs is the Christianization of politics, the application of the Christian ideal and the Christian method, always and everywhere, in its public life. We want in politics, federal and provincial, more Christian men and more Christian manhood.

Christian Intelligencer:—"Congregational singing led by a competent choir, embodies the thought of lofty choral praise. We should not forget that the church in its music is offering an oblation of praise, not giving a sacred concert out of courtesy to the Sabbath day. Who thinks of praying for the choir? Yet the choir, and the organist, and the boy, who perhaps, officiates as organ-blower, should be prayed for, just as we pray for the pastor and the consistory.

Herald and Presbyter:—"We need the revival foretold in the last verse of the Old Testament, where the hearts of the fathers are to be turned unto their children. When fathers regard the interests of their children as they should they will be anxious for their conversion that they will leave no influence unsought in order that they may be saved while still in the critical time of life.

Presbyterian Journal:—"A native African recently stated that the baptism by immersion was a serious barrier to the growth of the Baptist Church among his people. They have no baptismal fonts and the rivers were too full of crocodiles and alligators to make the service attractive. The argument may be somewhat local, but the force of it must be admitted.