

"Trust in God, and keep your powder dry," was, we are told, the old Roundhead motto, and as it did good service with them so it may with us in these days, if we carry it into practice. We would read it as meaning that we are to do everything as if success depended entirely upon ourselves, and to look to God as though it all was in His hands, and we were helpless in the matter. Now is not this exactly what our attitude should be in all the affairs of life, just as Stonewall Jackson, who believing thoroughly that everything was in the hands of God, success or failure, victory or defeat, yet never neglected the smallest details that might influence the result of any movement that he made? One of our Sunday school hymns has the same truth,

There is a work for all to do,  
Let us pray, and labour too.

To an enquiry made from the respected treasurer of our Home Missionary Society regarding finances, we received a courteous and cheering word. "I expect no debt at the end of the present year." That means, of course, if churches do not relax their efforts. Last year the balance due the treasurer, April 1, was \$4,900; this year it will be, say \$2,100. May we not truly hope that the tide has turned which leads on to much larger usefulness and power.

We met a few days ago an old Presbyterian friend whose business takes him constantly all over the Dominion—a thorough Irish Presbyterian of the old stock. He had just returned from Winnipeg, and we naturally asked after Mr. Silcox and his work. Our friend has heard our good brother, and spoke of him in warm terms of commendation, of his earnestness, popularity and talent. We are glad to record this testimony to our brother's worth, and pray that ever he may find the Lord's work prospering in his hands.

THERE is a sentence in the report of the address given by the chairman of the College Board to the students on the subject of church finances, which suggests some remarks on the relation of the pastor to the finance of a church. Giving is as much a part of worship as singing, every whit, and should be esteemed as such. Therefore, a pastor is bound to present the claims the church in its varied relations to its work has upon the means of

its members. Beyond this, the less a minister meddles with finances, especially its details, the better. As a large percentage of a church's income is, under our present system, the pastor's "salary" (a term, by the way, we utterly abominate in this connection), the management of the finances by the pastor is of necessity a personal matter. Over twenty years' experience in the ministry, and a pretty wide one at that, has convinced the editor that for a pastor to manage, or even direct the details of church finance, results in a loss of self-respect, of spiritual influence, and a general degradation of ministerial functions. The New Testament is our best guide, it is not well to leave the Word of God and minister to tables; and in the full list of the qualifications a bishop or presbyter must have as given by Paul, not a hint is found that he ought to understand finance. Of course Paul knew nothing of nineteenth century methods of finance, either in the church or the world.

We can understand how, under exceptional circumstances, a pastor can wisely guide a church in financial matters, but those should be exceptional. The writer has been pastor over an extensive rural congregation, in a small town with a large percentage of country members, and in city charges; at this present moment of writing, he could not say what any man or woman has ever given, or is giving still, toward the ordinary funds of the church where he has exercised or is exercising the functions of a pastor. He does not mean to say that in some cases the amount has not been in some way made known, but he does say it has never been sufficiently before him to fix itself upon his memory; and he has never suffered. Indeed, he doubts if any pastor through over twenty years' active work has been more regularly paid. It is an unspeakable privilege to look a congregation in the face, and uttering words of admonition, not know the ten cent from the hundred dollar man. To us it would be an intolerable burden to be tempted by the knowledge that some Diotrophes in the pew was the largest contributor to the bread that came to our table. At all events, we have thoroughly accepted and acted upon, in this connection, the principles of the pastoral epistles; we have never found any reason to doubt the correctness of our position. Amid all the burdens pressed upon a