

POINTS FOR SPECIAL NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTURY FUND.

The Committee earnestly asks that ministers, East and West, will kindly give notice to Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, not later than the middle of August, of the amount they intend to contribute to the Century Fund.

Note two things in the circular to ministers on another page. First, that while this notice is sent to Dr. Warden as Convener of the whole Committee, East and West, the payments when made will be made to the respective agents of the Church, East and West. Second, that in cases where part of the minister's contribution is intended for his own congregation, helping to pay off debt on church property, the allocation of the part to be devoted in this direction can be made later by the giver himself. The aim is to get the ministers to set at once a willing example.

Read with care Rev. D. D. McLeod's excellent, very excellent, article on another page, and ponder well its key note,—the willing heart,—so that this great work may be not wrought grudgingly or of necessity, but, whether our share be mite or talent, it may be from the cheerful giver whom the Lord loveth.

Note the great help that the Fund will give to all the Schemes of the Church, East and West. It will put them on a footing that will enable them to do their work better and to do more of it. Working balances for the missionary funds, so that they will not have to borrow to meet the expenditure of the first part of the year until the contributions come in at the close, will be a great saving to these Funds. Aid for Church building in the weak and scattered congregations will help much in the onward progress of our Church, and let us hope in its inward life. And so of all the other objects aimed at.

The debt paying side of the Scheme is a good one. Read it carefully on another page. Let the turn of the Centuries be, as far as possible, a year of jubilee, of release from Church debts, making them less or completely wiping them out.

Note what the Scheme means with regard to the Century just closing. It means an offering of gratitude for what the Century has brought. All that we have God has given to us, and this Century has brought to us; life, health, success, mercies personal, family mercies, blessings temporal and spiritual, blessings as a Church and Nation. For goodness in the century coming to a close, we give, little or much as we may be able, in addition to our other giving, a thank-offering to Him who has given all we have to us.

Note its relation to the Century that is coming. It means that, so far as we can do it, the coming Century will bring the greatest possible good to the world, that through it God's gifts, His greatest gift, the gift of salvation, shall flow more largely and richly and fully to those who need it; that we thus solemnly dedicate the new Century, and ourselves in the Century, more fully to Him who is giving it, with its privileges and opportunities, to us.

Note carefully Dr. Campbell's plan for Children's Day on another page. It speaks for itself in its own clear, helpful, persuasive way.

Note, that this Fund, whatever it may amount to, less or more, is a Special Fund. It is not to be made up by votes of money from our Congregations, Societies, Mission Bands, etc. All these will be needed as usual for the ever enlarging trust which our Lord is committing to us. With our regular work the Century Fund should not interfere. By those who can and will do something, little or more, in addition to their regular giving, it is a special offering, at a special time, for a special work.

Lastly, note that it is not merely a money raising Scheme, but an act of consecration. It is the giving of a little larger part than usual, of ourselves, to Him who gave Himself for us. It is sharing a little more fully with Him His work of sacrifice for the good of the world. It is seeking by following Him in His deed of sacrifice to cultivate more fully the spirit of sacrifice, and to become by the very act more like Him whose name we bear and whom we shall be like when we see Him.

I have often met those who say they are not making as much growth in grace as they would like. They rush to this convention and to the other; they read a variety of devout books, they try all kinds of methods, and they are perpetually endeavoring to acquire something. Whereas the true way to be really holy, really full of God, is to be still and let God in.—F. B. Meyer.

There is no place for self anywhere in Christian living. A man who tries to shine to glorify himself may be a Christian, but if so, he is yet following Christ afar off, and has much to learn. We must let our light shine so that men shall see our good works and glorify our Father. The best, the truest Christian life is not that which calls attention to us, which makes men admire us and praise us, but that which makes men think of God, and praise and honor Jesus Christ.