

These are the most obvious features of the year's finances. While the deficiency in the income cannot be overlooked, and should not be repeated, it need not discourage us. Far more serious obstacles have in the past been faced, and forced to yield before united and courageous effort. That this united and courageous effort may be immediately put forth is our plea and justification for referring so definitely to the subject. But the sums outstanding must be paid out of the ordinary revenue, and to secure this desirable end every contributor must be fully alive to his responsibility and privileges, so that larger weekly contributions may be placed at the disposal of your Committee for 1888.

Your Committee would specially call the attention of all contributors to the principle upon, and the method by which Gospel Ordinances are maintained in the Congregation. The principle is that of *voluntary offerings*; the method is, that these voluntary offerings should be contributed WEEKLY. But many do not contribute weekly, and many give their voluntary contributions only at the end of the year. This is easily seen if we look at the amounts received from Weekly Contributions during each quarter of the past year. If the system of Weekly Offerings were fully carried out, the amounts received during each quarter would be equal. Our Weekly Contributions for the year amounted to \$3,713.87, which should give \$928.47 each quarter. During the first quarter however, the Weekly Contributions amounted only to \$689.59; during the second quarter to \$788.78; during the third quarter to \$618.59, while during the fourth quarter they amounted to \$1,616.91, that is to more than the sum received during any two preceding quarters, and almost equal to half the total receipts from Weekly Contributions. It is very manifest, from this statement, that much of the advantage derived from the system of Weekly Contributions is lost, that your Committee must be unable to meet promptly financial obligations as they fall due, and that increased expense becomes absolutely necessary. We, therefore, sincerely trust that every contributor to the maintenance of God's cause in our midst, will during 1888 see that his contribution, whether small or large, shall reach the hands of our Treasurer once a week.

We cannot close our report without referring to the severe illness