

One thing that makes men give liberally is when they can give with confidence knowing that their gifts are well and wisely expended. The Augmentation committee has guarded with jealous care the interests of the Fund, looking closely into every case, and making grants only where they felt were warranted in so doing. Sometimes aid receiving congregations think that the Committee are too careful in the matter, but having charge of other peoples money, the aim of the Committee is to make no grant that cannot be justified before the Church.

#### THE LATE REV. THOMAS CHRISTIE.

Died at Kelseyville, Lake Co., California, Oct. 3. The sad news has not been unexpected but was not looked for so soon. As our readers will remember, he went as a missionary to Trinidad in 1873. There, in the Couva District, he labored for ten years, when failing health compelled him to give up his work and return to Nova Scotia. After a few months at home, during which he gave many missionary addresses through the church, he received an appointment from the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to labor in Southern California. This appointment he accepted thinking that in that mild climate he would be able to continue his work for Christ.

But the Master thought otherwise. He had other work for his servant to do. At the end of a year Mr. Christie was again obliged to give up work, and with his family removed to Kelseyville. There he hoped to recruit. And that deceptive disease consumption seemed to delude him till nearly the close, with the hope of recovery.

It was very touching to look at his letters, as they were read at a meeting of the F. M. Board in St. John a day or two after his death. One, written two or three months ago was in a strong firm hand, another some time later shewed signs of weakness, while the last was begun by himself, a few lines written in a failing hand, when apparently unable to finish it, Mrs. Christie had taken the pen and written for him. But all through, his letters breathed a spirit of hopefulness and trust.

Mr. Christie was of a mild and genial

disposition, and beloved by all who knew him. The sympathy and prayers of the church will be extended to Mrs. Christie and her little family in this their time of sore trial.

#### THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

Which have been brought into prominence of late through the seizure of some of them by Germany and the consequent protest of Spain, are the field of important missionary operations. Secretary Judson Smith of the A. B. C. F. M. writes to the New York *Herald* that American missionaries have been at work there for over thirty years past; that about fifty churches have been organized, with an aggregate of four thousand communicants, schools have been established, books printed in the native dialects, and civilized customs, dress, etc., introduced. "No European nation," says the doctor, "has had anything to do with these islands since American missionaries have labored there, and all that makes them valuable as possessions and profitable as centres of trade is due to what these American missionaries have done and are now doing."

The congregations of Scotsburn, Hermon and Saltsprings is calling Rev. G. S. Allen formerly of Chatham N. B.

Rev. Neil McKay, for many years minister of Summerside, P. E. I. has accepted a call to Chatham, N. B. and was inducted there on Friday, Oct. 9.

The last year of the American Home Missionary Society was one of unusual prosperity. A large number of missionaries were employed than ever before in the fifty-nine years of the history of the Society, the total number being 1,447, or 105 more than the year before. The total receipts were \$451,767, being greater than those of the year previous by \$60,000, and the gifts from living donors larger by \$80,000.

The City Mission of Berlin circulates no less than 75,000 printed sermons on Sunday morning.

Not Scotland, but Belgium possesses the bad eminence of having the most drunken population in the world.

The use of tobacco is to be absolutely prohibited in all the Government schools in France, on the ground that it affects injuriously the ability to study.