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EDITORIAL.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Home Mission Board, held on April 12th, there were reported over 400 baptisms. This is the largest number ever received into our mission churches in a single quarter. Such unprecedented blessing upon our Home work is exceedingly encouraging and calls for profound thanksgiving to the Father of mercies.

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The hard times are making themselves severely felt in our missionary treasuries. At the present moment the Home Mission Board is in arrears to the amount of over \$5,000 and the Foreign Board of \$11,000. This state of affairs is alarming. Half the year is gone and these heavy deficits are on our hands. The call for everyone to do all he can is a very urgent one. To carry forward our great missionary operations successfully we must not be hampered with debt. The obligation of those who have abundance to come up to the help of the Lord is doubly great.

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Hard times are testing times—They test the *truthfulness* of some, for the lying spirit of Ananias and Sapphira is sometimes seen even now. There are those whose income has not grown less but who take refuge under the plea of hard times to get rid of the duty of giving the amounts they are able. This is lying to the Holy Ghost. Hard times test the *faith* of some. Their income is smaller, their wants are as many as ever. Dare they consistently with their former estimate of their need continue to give as largely as before?

Can they trust the Lord and give in spite of shrinking receipts? Has the promise of God any meaning for them, "Trust in the Lord and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed"? Hard times test the *self-denial* of others. If they give to God according to the urgency of His ever growing work, they must be content with plainer clothing and simpler food; luxuries must be cut off and many indulgences must be given up. But in the name of Him who pleased not Himself and who said, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head"; of Him who "though He was rich for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be rich," is it not compensation enough for our small self-sacrifices that so His work of salvation is advanced and His name glorified?

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The convention series of the "Baptist Union" will be exceedingly interesting to every young Baptist on the Continent. The first issue will be a magnificent Toronto number, with elegant design for front cover page, and the whole series will be filled with illustrations and interesting special matter descriptive of Toronto and its advantages as a convention city. Every church should have a new club formed now. Every Baptist young person should be urged to subscribe for this series, which begins April 28th and closes July 21st. Thirteen numbers for 25 cents.

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