

The Society of the Treasury of God.

All communications relating to this Society should be addressed to Rev. C. A. B. Poock, Commandr, R. N., Bellevue Avenue, Toronto.

FIRST FRUITS.

HOLY days are appointed by our Church for the purpose of teaching "the faith." One of these is the "presentation of Christ in the temple," otherwise called "the purification of St. Mary the Virgin." Its teaching concerns the offering of first fruits—"It is written in the law of the Lord: every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy unto the Lord" (Luke ii, 23).

The angel passed through the land of Egypt (Exodus xiii, 2) and smote all the first-born of man and beast; but he passed over every house that was marked with the blood of sacrifice (Exodus xiii). From henceforth the first born male of beasts were sacrificed, and the first-born male of man was redeemed (Exodus xiii, 13-16).

Are you too poor to dedicate your first-fruits? Remember that Mary and Joseph were so poor that they could not afford a lamb, but offered two turtle doves; the Son of God was redeemed by the poor man's offering! It was for our sakes he became poor. Besides tithes and offerings, the Jews sacrificed the first calf, the first lamb, etc.; also the first-fruits of the earth; and this is what he said: "A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down to Egypt, and sojourned with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty and populous." He told how they were afflicted by the Egyptians, how they cried unto the Lord; how the Lord heard them, and brought them forth with a mighty hand and a stretched out arm into a land flowing with milk and honey; and, "Now behold I have brought the first-fruits of the land which thou, O Lord, hast given me."

Christian, whose are your first-fruits? You have been redeemed from worse than Egyptian bondage, from the bondage of sin, "from the power of satan unto God." The Jew offered his sacrifice of his first-fruit because he had been brought into an earthly paradise; you were baptised into the death of Jesus, washed in His blood, and placed in a state of Salvation and made an inheritor of the Paradise of God, and the eternal joys of Heaven. Christ is our Passover, and was sacrificed for you. What do you sacrifice for Him?

The Jew brought the basket of the first of the first-fruits to the Priest, and the Priest placed it upon the altar (Exodus xxiii, 19). The Priest places your "alms" and "other devotions" upon the Holy Table (see Rubric). Are they the first of the first-fruits of what God has given you? Have you gone down on your knees and dedicated all to God? If you have, rejoice, because "if the first-fruits are holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root be holy, so are the branches." (Rom. xi, 16.)

The word of the Lord by Solomon, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of

all thine increase." There never was a more definite command than that. Are you quite sure that, as a Christian, you are exempt from obedience?

Honor means worship. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John vi, 24). True worship must be that of the whole man—body, soul and spirit; the only way we can worship with the body (beyond a reverent posture) is by offering the things of the body. Worshipping with our first-fruits is a great means of grace, it is a means whereby we can consecrate our life in the world; and change our "mythe" into a real, practical, living God, who cares for our welfare and comfort, whereby we can obey another command by Paul: "Be anxious for nothing," "and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

C Treasurer's Department.

J. J. Mason, Esq., Hamilton, Ont., Treasurer.

RECEIPTS FROM 1ST AUGUST, 1886, TO 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1887, INCLUSIVE.

	DOMESTIC MISSIONS.			FOREIGN MISSIONS.			Grand Total
	Appropriated	Unappropriated	Total	Appropriated	Unappropriated	Total	
Huron.....	\$ 945 69	\$ 719 27	\$1,664 96	\$ 536 21	\$ 992 86	\$1,529 07	\$3,194 03
Niagara.....	1,058 51	627 74	1,686 25	615 73	682 30	1,298 03	2,984 28
Toronto.....	3,226 47	1,062 20	4,288 67	1,774 57	1,123 13	2,897 70	7,186 37
Ontario.....	2,008 60	851 89	2,860 49	447 45	535 35	982 80	3,843 29
Montreal.....	689 67	549 16	1,238 83	1,169 00	200 00	1,369 00	2,607 83
Quebec.....	1,340 64	772 48	2,113 12	1,157 91		1,157 91	3,271 03
Fredericton..	329 40		329 40	181 15		181 15	510 55
Nova Scotia..	704 39	274 64	979 03	96 06	360 89	456 95	1,435 98
Algonia.....	24 69	32 04	56 73	47 26	94 26	141 52	198 25
Sundries.....		38 88	38 88		38 88	38 88	77 76
TOTAL.....	\$10,328 06	\$4,928 30	\$15,256 36	\$6,025 34	\$4,027 67	\$10,053 01	\$25,309 37