

ing observation, or being forgotten, that the aggregate amount of these deficits at the present moment reaches many thousands of dollars. The fact that this state of things exists, necessitates the payment of large sums to banks in the shape of discounts, and thus aggravates the evil, because it demands the turning aside of every dollar paid in that way from the objects for which the money collected in our churches is primarily intended.

We have no desire to be in the smallest degree alarmist; we are aware how often the prospect which, a few months before the meeting of the General Assembly, was dark, has, by the time it met, brightened most unexpectedly, but only generally through the utmost, special efforts of some men appealing to those who are able and willing to help over a time of difficulty. There is necessarily, however, a limit to what is possible in this way, and, as this is the second, at least, if not the third, year of stringency, it may not be possible this time to accomplish as much by special efforts as was done in the last year or two. There now remain only a very few more months until we shall come to the end of another financial year, so that if deficits are to be made up, the work must be gone about energetically and done quickly. There is certainly grave cause for fear that it may not be done, a result which all who love our Church, or appreciate the greatness of the work it is doing and lying before it to be done would deplore.

It is well that we should set before our minds, and that it should be made known throughout the whole Church, what any serious deficiency in the funds means. It means more or less discouragement to all who are actually and personally engaged in the Church's service, from the principals and professors in our colleges down to the humblest home missionary or catechist in the most obscure mission station of the Church. It means also discouragement to all who, although not actually and personally engaged in the Church's service, are yet deeply interested in her work and giving freely to it accordingly to their ability. But it means besides these things, in many cases, a serious abridgment, where this can least be afforded, of home comforts and even of what we are accustomed to regard as necessities of life. And here it might be asked, why it should be that of all whose salaries for work done for the Church and which are paid out of the general funds of the Church, those of our home missionaries alone should be reduced because of deficiency in these funds? If this were shared by all it would make the reduction lighter for all, and, in addition, establish a feeling of mutual interest and sympathy among all employed in the Church's service, which would have this happy effect, that the humblest toiler would feel that he stands upon an equal footing with the highest, and that the highest is his brother and is sharing his burdens.

How may this threatened deficit be met and happily disappear altogether at the close of the financial year is a pertinent question? The practical answer lies with the ministers, sessions and other officebearers of our Church. If they will take cognizance of all the circumstances of the case, set before their own minds first clearly their meaning so that conscience and sense of duty to God will be felt by them, and by them communicated to the whole Church; if they will add to this the example of self-sacrifice and cheerful liberality, we need not fear that there would by the end of the year be any deficiency. If the necessities of the case were made known in every congregation, in every Sabbath school and Bible class, in every Christian Endeavour Society, and the plain obligation pointed out that honesty and good faith towards all our missionaries, at home and abroad, demand that our promises to them be made good, and methods of work for meeting her engagements wisely planned; funds that are now diverted to objects outside of our Church—good objects, it may be—would be retained within it, until at least every promise to our own agents is fully implemented. While we would by no means recommend that our givings be confined solely within our own Church, we more and more feel that the cause of Christ can upon the whole be no more effectively advanced through any other channel or agency, than through those provided by our own Church. A strong and widespread conviction of this acted upon throughout her whole bounds would be one way of helping to prevent the deficits which threaten us, and which it may be found before the end of March, to the joy of all deeply alive to the importance of this matter, have disappeared.

## THE LATE PROFESSOR R. Y. THOMSON, M.A., B.D.

THE sad tidings which in this issue we announce of the death, on the forenoon of Sabbath last, of the late Professor R. Y. Thomson, M.A., B.D., will be received throughout the Church with feelings of unfeigned sorrow, and will bring to many the sense of a great personal loss. His death, which had been rather feared than as yet expected by his friends and relatives, came at the last, as in such cases it so often does, with unexpected suddenness. A fuller tribute than we can at this moment pay to his memory and worth will appear later, but we cannot even announce his death without bearing witness to his gentleness, amiability, modesty, humility and unselfishness,—all of which qualities shone in him so conspicuously, as to make him admired by all who can appreciate them, especially as illumined and made doubly beautiful by the spirit of Christ, the Master in whose steps he closely followed. To his personal friends these divine graces very specially endeared him and made him a man greatly beloved. In the inner circle of his own family, into which we may not intrude, they could not but attract towards him an ardent affection. To all they made him a pattern and example.

His pastor, Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., has lately, in a sermon or two, been preaching to young men the "gospel of work," the sacred religious duty of it. The late professor, as all who knew him will bear witness, taught by his life the duty of constant and most earnest diligence in doing the work which God, by His grace, fitted him and gave him the opportunity to do. Humanly speaking his life might have been perhaps prolonged, but for his readiness to meet all demands and work with all his might while his day lasted, as for instance in his taking part in the work of the last summer session in Winnipeg after he had just, indeed before he had fully, recovered from a severe attack of illness. In spite also of what to friends appeared increasing feebleness he had agreed to accept the call of St. James' Square congregation to the eldership, and would have been inducted into that office but for the sudden coming on of the illness which has just terminated fatally. His work was more nearly finished than he anticipated, and now he rests from his labors, and his works follow him. He being dead yet speaketh. He has taken his place in the great cloud of witnesses, of those whose sufferings, whose faith and holy zeal are and shall ever be a constant stimulus and inspiration to those left yet for a time behind, to run with patience the race set before them, and with heroic resolution in the face of suffering and death after the example of their Lord and Master finish the work which He has given them to do.

The funeral services were held at his late residence 14 Nassau street. At the request of the Rev. Mr. Jordan, Rev. Dr. Parsons led in prayer; the twenty-third Psalm was feelingly sung, led by the student's choir of Knox College; and Rev. M. Jordan read suitable selections of Scripture. The Rev. Prof. Gregg spoke briefly of the course of this late colleague as a student and his more public work as professor. The Rev. J. A. Turnbull, M.A., LL.B., of West Church, Toronto, who was a fellow-student of the departed, also spoke of him as student and a personal friend. The Rev. Prof. McLaren engaged in prayer and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Jordan. The Rev. Principal Caven who was was out of the city, and only learned from the newspapers of the death of his fellow professor, arrived just at the close of the service. All the Presbyterian pastors of the city and other ministers were present, and the students as a body, composing a very large company, accompanied the remains to the Union station whence they were taken to Hullet where the mother of the deceased, who still survives him, lives, and where the interment will take place to-day.

## AN APPEAL TO CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS.

IT was suggested recently that the Christian Endeavor Societies of the Presbyterian Church should unite in observing a "self-denial week" during December, for the benefit of the missions of our church. One society at least in this city has taken up the idea and will make a self-denial offering at the last meeting before Christmas. Will not our sister societies join us in this endeavor, and show our love for our Divine Lord and our loyalty to the Church, by denying ourselves

in some way for the sake of the cause which is dear to His heart. Never was there a louder call for help in both our Home and Foreign Mission work, and it would be most timely for our societies to make a united effort along this line.

WM. S. LESTER.

Toronto, Dec. 9th, 1894.

## Books and Magazines.

The Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine* is exquisite in its illustrations, and they are abundant in number. They keep one lingering over and admiring them. There is an interesting sketch by Gilbert Hamerton of Emile Friant, with a specimen of his work, and of George Frederick Watts, R.A., by Cosma Monkhouse, with several beautiful copies of pieces from his pencil, especially portraits of Herr Joachim, of the artist, John Lothrop Motley, Lord Tennyson and others. "John March, Southerner" is concluded, and besides its closing chapters there are many brief and interesting articles both in prose and rhyme of which we may mention: "McAndrew's Hymn," by Rudyard Kipling; "A Modern Sir Galahad"; "The Story of a Path"; "The Mantle of Osiris, Munichah." The Point of View possesses its usual interest. The "History of a Publishing House," with which the number closes, is an extended account of the beginning and growth up to the present of the publishing house of Scribner's Sons, which in little more than a year will have reached its jubilee.

The *Missionary Review of the World* always gives us a fresh uplift. A review of the Parliament of Religion by the Editor-in-Chief opens the December number. It is a presentation of opinions from many quarters as to the effects following that Parliament, deprecatory and condemnatory. The Rev. J. H. Shedd, D.D., of Oroomiah, writes on "Babism, its Doctrines and Relation to Mission Work." "The Evangelization of the Jew"; "The Ministry of Women"; "Education and Missions"; "Prospects of Civilization in the Nile Valley," all by the most competent men make instructive and bracing reading. The International department is ably edited by Rev. J. S. Gracey, D.D., and the whole magazine is full both of inspiration and information. The index for 1894, contained in this number, shows at a glance the wonderful variety, interest and importance of the subjects treated in this admirable magazine. Funk & Wagnall's Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York.

The *Methodist Magazine* is a credit to Methodism in Canada in every way. The December number opens with an account of the rise and progress of missionary work in Japan under the head of "Sunrise in the Sunrise Kingdom," illustrated by the Rev. John Sarmby, M.A., a foretaste, we are told, of a forthcoming volume on Japan, to be issued by the Methodist Book and Publishing House. The Editor continues "Tent Life in Palestine." "A Day in the Ontario Institute for the Blind," is a study of Present Day Methods. Mrs. J. L. Harvie, who is so thoroughly competent to do it, deals with "Woman's Work for Women in Heathen Lands." "A Lay Preacher," by Rose Terry Cooke; another instalment of "Oars and Spindles," and many shorter but excellent pieces, original and selected, in prose and poetry, make up a good number. Wm. Briggs, Toronto.

In the Review Section of the *Homiletic Review*, for December, the subjects treated are: "The Sacred Scriptures of the Egyptians"; "Richard Hooker, the Elizabethan Ecclesiastic"; "A Hindu Missionary in America," by that able writer on such subjects Rev. Dr. Ellinwood, of New York; and "Light on Scriptural Texts from Recent Discoveries." Among the contributors to the Sermonic Section are President Rankin, D.D., LL.D., of Washington, D.C.; Rev. Dr. Wells, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Rev. Dr. Palmer and Dr. Harold Stein Fuenen, Denmark. The many other departments of this useful preacher's review, contain many suggestive and helpful thoughts on living subjects. Funk & Wagnall's Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York, U.S.

The *Christmas Century* makes a strong appeal for favor. The number is distinguished by a new and artistic cover printed in colors. Its high-lights are Napoleon, Christmas, ten stories (including Rudyard Kipling's first American story), Cole's engravings, and Castaigne's drawings. There are in all forty-six illustrations, of which twenty-five are of full-size, including nine with special reference to either the religious or the domestic aspect of the season. First class artists, and contributors of world wide fame to English speaking people combined their efforts to lend a charm to this number. The Century Company New York.

The *Canadian Almanac*, for 1895, is the forty eighth annual issue of this work, and the publishers, we believe, are justified in saying that this most useful publication is more vigorous and attractive than ever. Besides some new features of interest and importance to Canadians, it comprises the usual mass of information and statistics, and, altogether, the *Canadian Almanac*, for 1895, is a credit to its publishers, and a book that should be in the hands of every Canadian. (Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.) Price in paper covers, 20 cents; cloth covers, 30 cents.

The *Interior* (Chicago, Ill.) is the most progressive denominational paper in the United States. A recent indication of commendable enterprise was the publishing last week of a Book Number, probably the largest single issue ever produced by a religious journal. It consisted of sixty-four pages of interesting, well-selected reading matter, enclosed in a handsomely designed cover—the whole making up a number of unusual excellence.

The leading articles in the *Altruistic* of November, are a character sketch of the late Professor David Swing, by several pens, that of Dr. John H. Burrows amongst others, and of Oliver Wendell Holmes, by Joseph Cook, LL.D. and James L. Onderdrak. It contains besides, the "Monthly Round Up" and "Winnowings" from current monthlies and weeklies. The *Altruistic Review*, Springfield, Ohio. U.S.