

the end!" The children all stored the money given them for candy and nuts.

The State Home Missionary organization of Michigan has recommended to its members a week of self-denial, either in the line of household expenditure, or articles of dress, or some anticipated pleasure, or all of these. Each member receives an envelope, upon which is printed

SELF DENIAL.

"Neither will I offer unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." 11 Sam. xxiv : 24.

There ought to be \$1,500 sent in, as the result of this special offer, which would wipe out the debt of the Society; and that without diminishing the ordinary gifts to the fund. And it will be done, if our people begin *now*. Never leave any question of conscience and duty to the "sober second thought," that is generally a selfish thought. Whatever the hands find to do—that is whatever conscience and opportunity present, *do it*.

Correspondence.

ELECTING DEACONS.

DEAR SIR,—The following from the pen of Rev. Smith Baker, D.D., was published in the *Congregationalist* of 22nd May last, but everybody does not see that excellent paper, so it may interest some, if you can give it room in the pages of your next issue.

Yours sincerely,

FIAT LUX.

DEACONS.

No man should be chosen for life. Our churches have suffered from this unwise practice. If an unfit man is chosen, there is no easy way of removing him, and he becomes a constantly growing hindrance to the church.

And good men, though they do not outgrow their goodness, but become riper in grace, may, and do, outgrow their fitness for so important an office; and such is human nature that at the time when a man begins to be unfit he does not always see his unfitness, and hence has not the grace to resign.

The interest of the church should not be sacrificed for the sake of honoring any man. The instances are very few where a man should hold the office of deacon after he is seventy years old; and never, almost without exception, after he is seventy-five.

There are scores of such men, good and true, who ought to resign at once; it would help the pastor and the church for them to do so.

They do not realize that they cannot be what the church requires. The State makes provision that her judges shall not serve after such an age; and the nation retires her generals.

Dear, good fathers in Israel, we love you, but the ministers and churches do wish some of you would be contented with past honors. They do not like to tell you so, because they love you so much; but nevertheless, you would confer a favor by resigning.

One of the deacons of a church should always be a young man, that the younger life in the church may be represented in its management.

God pity the church which has a deacon who has managed things for twenty-five years, and thinks he *must* manage them still!

Too often the church is injured through the vain sentiment of honoring men.

CONGREGATIONAL CLUB.

DEAR MR. SMITH,—On the 16th May last a dinner party assembled in the Lecture Hall of Calvary Church; and the occasion will probably be a memorable one in the annals of Canadian Congregationalism.

Representative men were there by invitation from Zion, Emmanuel and Calvary Churches, about thirty in all; and after the usual repast for which Calvary Church is famed, the Rev. E. M. Hill, M.A., called the friends to order, and in a short address explained the reason for the gathering as being twofold, first, to advise regarding the denominational work at the thriving western suburb of Cote St. Antoine, and, secondly, for the formation of a Congregational Club.

The first object was fully discussed, and the desirability of establishing the cause at Cote St. Antoine unanimously concurred in; and a committee named to make enquiries, and report at a future meeting.

The idea of a Congregational Club, although heretofore unknown in Canada, has been tried with wonderful success in some of the leading Congregational centres in the United States, and was warmly approved of by all who took part in the meeting.

A remark by one of the speakers, that the formation of such a Club thirty years ago, would