

three quarters of a century of trial gave way to the freer service of the Westminster Directory. There is no reason why the Church should legislate against any of them. By all means give liberty to any congregations that wish to introduce them. But it is surely premature to put the Church's imprimatur on them before they are tried.

By far the most pressing need of our services in the improvement of those features which we now have. Here unfortunately the scope of the committees recommendation is somewhat limited. They have nothing to suggest for the improvement of the Psalmody, or for the improvement of the sermon, not even for the improvement of the collection, though these are the directions in which improvement would be most appreciated. They confine themselves to the prayers and they have very little to offer regarding these. Happily they do not despair of extempore prayers altogether. They neither recommend a liturgy nor adopt Mr. Fleming's suggestion of a printed collection of prayers for the minister's use in the pulpit to be given out by numbers apparently like the hymns so that the people may know what is coming. But with a view to enriching and varying the Public Worship of the sanctuary they propose to recommend to ministers the study or use of certain service books that may be regarded as containing appropriate prayers. Now we do not propose to revive Jenny Geddes and her cutty stool, but really one wonders what the Committee expect to be accomplished by this method. We do not know what service books they mean to select but some of these have been before the public for a generation past without leading to much improvement. The archaic devotional forms that make up the bulk of them do not come naturally to one's lips in an extempore prayer, and they are apt to be soon discarded. By all means let ministers study or commit to memory such service books if that is the best they can do, but it would be far more to the purpose if the Committee were to recommend a deeper spiritual life and urge ministers to stir up the gift that is in them by meditation and much exercise in private.

Altogether one cannot help feeling that, with the best intentions in the world, the Committee have somehow got the whole matter awry. They have set themselves a task to which they were not clearly called. It is not yet too late to retrace their steps. It is to be hoped when the report comes to be finally adopted that which is visionary will be dropped and only that retained which is clearly called for.

The New Financial Agent of the Church.

The Rev. Dr. Warden, who on the death of the lamented Dr. Reid, as announced in our last issue, immediately intimated to the Moderator of the General Assembly his acceptance of the appointment made last June as his successor, and has promptly entered upon the duties of the office; is already too well-known throughout the Church to need any special introduction or eulogy at the present time. But we cannot forbear extending our congratulations to the Church on obtaining for this important work the services of one who is in every way so abundantly qualified for the position.



Dr. Warden is a native of Dundee, Scotland, but obtained his professional education in Knox College, Toronto. In 1866 he was ordained as minister of Bothwell, Ont. After a successful pastorate of some eight years, during the greater portion of which he was Clerk of his Presbytery, he resigned in order to accept the position of Financial Agent for Knox College, which was then making an effort to raise an endowment. In that capacity he visited a large number of the principal congregations in Ontario and gained an intimate knowledge of their circumstances as well as made the personal acquaintance of very many of their leading members. In 1876 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of French Evangelization with headquarters in Montreal, and shortly afterwards Treasurer of the Presbyterian College, which positions, with some modifications of the duties, he has continued to hold ever since. He has also been for many years Secretary of the Home Mission and Augmentation Committees (Western Section) and is complete master of all the details of these important schemes whose operations extend from Gaspe to the Pacific. In the Presbytery of Montreal he has largely guided the administration of all its missions and the thorough organization of the work in that important district is greatly due to his efforts. As Director of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools and of Coligny College he has brought these institutions up to the highest measure of efficiency. In recognition of his high character and varied services the Presbyterian College, Montreal, conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.D. in 1888.

During his twenty years of activity in the commercial capital of the Dominion he has given abundant evidence of his energy, ability, and prudence in the management of financial affairs. Watchful of every item of expenditure so as to avoid the slightest unnecessary outlay, insisting especially upon the fullest measure of local liberality before consenting to grants from Church funds, he has commanded the confidence of contributors, whether congregations or individuals, and has been eminently successful in awakening their interest in the Church's work. His investments of trust funds have always been made with the most scrupulous care and with excellent judgment, so that in no case has loss resulted. So fully has his financial ability been recognized that he has been the trusted adviser of those who had any claim on his interest, and more than once he has been offered large salaries, amounting to more than double of what he has ever received, to undertake the management of important commercial companies. He has, however, always turned a deaf ear to such tempting overtures and recognized the prior claim which the Church had upon his services. She is fortunate in being able to entrust her large and increasing financial interests to one who is in every respect so well-fitted to guard them. We feel sure that she will give him her perfect confidence and that under his administration the various schemes will be sustained with ever enlarging liberality.

The General
Assembly.

The following letter has been received
from Rev. Dr. Campbell:—

In view of the decease of my venerable colleague, Rev. Dr. Reid, will you kindly request all Presbytery clerks and others having communications to make regarding the business of the General Assembly, to address their correspondence to me, at 68 St. Famille street, Montreal, and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT CAMPBELL,
Clerk of Assembly.