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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,  
Manager and Editor.

Ottawa, Wednesday, 5th Dec., 1900.

The Battle of the Standards goes steadily on across the lines. The acrimony of the first skirmishes has passed away, and there is now a keen desire to know the will of the people, as to this matter of Revision. The agitation has done good. Many who had not the remotest idea of what the Confession of Faith contained before the present year have now a pretty fair knowledge of the great doctrines collected there. And the Confession has gained ground in consequence.

Already the Union movement that has brought about the United Free Church in Scotland has crossed into the United States. There are more branches of the Presbyterian church there than there are in Scotland. Speaking recently at a public function the present moderator of the American church, North, pleaded for the union of the Northern American Church and the United Presbyterian Church. The proposition to unite the North and South Presbyterian church has long been up, and many attempts have been made, but they are more widely separated than are the United Presbyterian and the American Church, North. It need not surprise us if this be one of the great issues that emerge at the next General Assembly.

This is a year of feasting and hurrahing. There are not wanting signs that the people are tiring of the repeated "welcomings" given to our returning soldiers. They have done well, and we have told them so by word and by deed. Now let the matter rest, lest we take from the real value of our welcome by making it appear as if it were given because it was the right thing to do. After all, may it not be possible that some of the despised Boers have done as noble deeds as our own men. We know nothing of that side but what is bad. There must be some good in a people who so persistently fight a losing battle because they suppose freedom depends upon it. Can the man cast stones, however, who is always decrying the demands of Christ because it means, he says, the loss of his freedom of action? He too, fights a losing battle, and he knows it, yet he keeps it up.

## THE CHURCH TREASURER.

When elders are about to be elected in a congregation it is a time of the gravest anxiety. Earnest men pray that the people may be guided aright, and when the congregation, by its vote, says that it wishes a man to bear rule over it in spiritual matters, it is a matter of deep heart-searching to him whether this be a call from God to him or not. And this is right. But a church treasurer is chosen on the spur of the moment. He has had a business education. He is accustomed to direct business enterprises. He is the wealthiest member and the best contributor. He is the only man that has a right to the place. This is all wrong. No man but one has a right to the position, and that is the one whom the Holy Spirit has chosen.

Consider what is demanded of the treasurer if he fulfils his duty and lives up to his privileges. He must know the people as thoroughly as the minister, must study their peculiarities, must know how to appreciate them, and gain his point every time. An insurance agent would make a good church treasurer, if he were a consecrated man. And he, though treasurer, must be a thoroughly consecrated man, or he cannot fill the office of treasurer to advantage. He must be able to approach the man who has not begun to contribute, who drops a five-cent piece in the plate, as he would to see any other show. He must make that man see that it is his privilege to help along the Lord's work by giving of his substance, or to hinder it by refraining to give. He must be carrying on an unceasing course of education among the people with the same end in view. He must have tact to approach the spiritually bilious man, and persuade him that by withholding his money and his presence he is hurting Christ more than the man with whom he is mad, and that he is hurting himself more than all.

One does not need to pursue this line of the treasurer's opportunity. A field of operation opens out for him that would give employment to a Napoleon of finance. And some church treasurers fill this position admirably. If a member is absent for two weeks the treasurer knows why, and contrives to let him know that he was missed. He is one upon whom the treasurer counted and his place was empty. Every man likes to know that he is missed. The lad who gives five cents in his envelope should never be allowed to think that it will not much matter if his place be empty or if he forgets his envelope. It would not count for much with the treasurer who just receives the money, but to the man who considers himself responsible for the work of those committed to him, it means a great deal; and that is the way the true treasurer looks at it.

The best church treasurer is not after the money, but is seeking the good of the men and women who give him the money. If it be an act of worship to give of our substance to the Lord, and surely no one will gainsay that statement, it is the duty of the only man who knows whether the men and women of the congregation are faithful in this worship or not, to do his utmost to keep them faithful. If there be breaks, and he knows the reason, he will seek to remove the difficulty, at once, if there be such. Very quietly, for

he must seek to do his work so that others shall not know, he will meet the difficulty of the disgruntled man, soothe the feelings of the ruffled man, prick the conscience of the careless man, awaken the drowsy man, drive off the mischief-making man, initiate the young man, and keep all so well up to time that none shall be hindered by the tugging back of the lazy ones. Is this possible for one man? Not as church treasurers are usually chosen.

Because a man has a knack of saying hard things it does not follow that he is obliged to speak so that he hurts other men. Such men have a fight that the duller-witted never experience. The true man tries to help his fellow, and has no pleasure in putting him at a disadvantage. The sharp-tongued man is continually disarming his opponent and placing him at a disadvantage. To hold himself in, to parry and thrust with the heavy hand of the man pitted against him, to win finally by the rarest advantage, is one of the things that tries men, and brings out the calibre of his moral make-up. From the world's point of view the man is a fool who does not take all the advantage he can. From the Christian point of view even an opponent must be treated generously.

An announcement of interest to all lovers of art was made in the November number of The Studio, to the effect that the special winter issue (modern pen drawings, European and American) of this excellent publication would be out early in December. It will be devoted to the consideration of the work of the leading pen draughtsmen of today and contain a large number of admirable illustrations. Articles by competent writers dealing with British, American, German, French, Dutch work will appear in this issue. The number and beauty of the illustrations will render "Modern Pen Drawings" peculiarly attractive as a holiday gift, while all interested in the technique of pen and ink work and in the comparison of styles will find it exceptionally interesting and instructive. The Studio, 5 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, London, W. C., England.

The Nineteenth Century for November comes to hand with its usual budget of interesting articles. It is evident from the table of contents that considerable interest or, one might almost say, anxiety is still felt regarding the military and naval power of Britain. Three writers give contributions under the heading "Lessons of the War." There is also an article on "Army Manoeuvres in France," the writer of which seems to think that if the French adopted in real battles the tactics there exhibited they also would court dire disaster. However, the bill of fare is by no means wholly military, as the following titles show: "The Cradle of the Human Race," "The Lake Dwellers," "Voice Culture," "Extravagance in Dress," etc. "French Canada and the Empire" is a judicious article on an important question of special interest to Canadian readers. The writer has evidently given much careful study to the question of which he treats, which cannot always be said of similar contributions to English magazines. Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York.