

There are few cities where there are not to be found large, finely-built churches with strong congregations on the one hand, and on the other the rough-cast edifice or the slim brick hall of a struggling congregation. An acquaintance with the experience of the latter class proves how toilsome a labor it is to make ends meet; how the pastor, often a young man whose studies have not matured, has to toil on to the verge of despair in the necessary attempt to collect money when he ought to be busily engaged gathering a flock and ministering to their spiritual needs. He dares not prefer a claim—a humble request or entreaty is all that is permissible—to the wealthy members of the adjacent congregation, for although they are Presbyterians they belong not to his particular congregation. They are but too apt to forget that the Presbyterianism of which they are proud demands otherwise of them; that the struggling congregation was for good and sufficient reasons formed by the Presbytery and that unless they protested they were consenting parties to the Act for the rule reads:—"Before proceeding to organize a congregation the Presbytery gives notice to the Session of any congregation which may be effected by the proposed action, so that they may have opportunity of being heard in the matter." Yet, we believe, as we have said, that the experience of nineteen out of every twenty ministers of struggling city charges is practically what we have stated it to be, viz., indifference or empty excuses. A brighter day will dawn on the church when a spirit of wider fraternity is manifested among the members. There is essentially a work for the laity. It is to intelligent, public-spirited laymen we must look for a movement in the direction indicated. Examples are not wanting in sister churches that could be named. It is not for Presbyterians to hesitate to take advantage of proper means for strengthening and developing their particular church, the church to which their convictions are pledged. A leader would be hailed with joy by at least two-thirds of the Church.

#### Golden Words from a Man of Science

Sir William Dawson's address at the closing of the Montreal Presbyterian College, briefly summarized on another page, is well worthy the attentive perusal of every young minister. The veteran man of science who has won laurels in the first rank, who has led the first rank in his own special branch, gives this advice: "For you and for all, the Word of God, which is the sword of the spirit, is the first and only weapon, and your motto should be 'the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible.'" He has not found science a bar to the acceptance of the Word of God, on the contrary he has been the more confirmed in his abiding faith. "The student," he says, "has his time much occupied with the surroundings and accessories of the Bible, and it is not until the soldier of the cross has proved its power and his own coolness and skill in many a hard fought field that he can be considered as fully expert in the use of the sword of the spirit." These words are most precious and sound counsel to be cherished by every student of the word, as well as by those who have in view the work of the ministry.

**Information Wanted.** If Mr. Fowler who wrote on the subject of helping the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, by the co-operation of the Young Peoples'

Societies, will communicate with Rev. Wm. Burns, Agent for the Fund, he will obtain all the information available as to the purpose, and achievement, and requirements of the Fund.

**Rev. Dr. G. L. MacKay.** The Executive of the Foreign Mission Committee has asked Dr. G. L. MacKay to give up visiting congregations until after the meeting of the General Assembly. He has been taking colds which is not surprising after so many years in a tropical climate, and is in danger of seriously impairing his health, which the Church cannot afford.

**Control of one's Spirit.** There is a higher and nobler victory over self, than that which comes through physical and mental discipline and power, the control of spirit. These lower powers are to be servants of a higher. More important than success in business and scholarship, or anything of this world, is the building of a character. Above man, infinitely exalted, is God, whom he should worship and serve, in which he finds his blessedness. Through one's spiritual powers he knows and worships and serves God in glorious fellowship. Until a man takes his right place before God, he has not begun to rule himself.

**Want of Promptness.** The Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Statistics is complaining of the delatoriness on the part of Presbyteries in sending in their reports for the year ending with December last. Only two returns have been received on the 1st April, from the Presbyteries in the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, thus leaving nine unreported. In the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa two have not sent in returns; in Toronto and Kingston five not reported; in Hamilton and London three; in Manitoba and the North-West Territories two; and in British Columbia three. The names are withheld.

**Deservingly Honored.** We heartily congratulate the new D. D. of Montreal College. The recipient of this honor, Rev. Alexander Robertson, Vemce, who is no stranger to our readers, well deserved the recognition which the degree implies. As an able pastor, a learned scholar, a useful and popular author, he has earned distinction at the hands of his brethren. Of his books that are best known in Canada, "Count Campello and Catholic Reform in Italy" and "Fra Paola Sarpi," have drawn words of commendation from high authorities and they are much appreciated by students of modern Italian progress. That a long life of usefulness may be before him is a prayer that goes with the doctor's degree to Dr. Robertson.

**Memorial of Ion Keith Falconer.** Dr. Young, Edinburgh, proposes that, as the church at Aden is largely the outcome of the Hon. Ion Keith-Falconer's work, it is a fitting place in which to erect a memorial stone. His idea is to have a stone made of red granite or marble, with the Burning Bush and motto of the Free Church of Scotland carved on one side, and the following inscription on the other: Sacred to the memory of Hon. Ion G. N. Keith-Falconer, Whose Love for and Devotion to the Cause of Christ brought him here to work as a Pioneer Missionary; from which Labour of Love he was called away by the Master at the early Age of Thirty Years, on the 11th of May 1887. 1 Cor. ix. 23.

Dr. Young believes that many friends at home would like to contribute towards such a memorial.