

lanu. His ordinances and His laws, to whose protection and blessing we owe all our prosperity. Our united church during the past quarter of a century has grown with rapid strides to a position of great influence in the country. We desire by this offering to pledge anew our loyalty to Him, to whom we owe it all. Therefore, the church asks every man, and woman, and child, within her borders, to take part in this great Christian and patriotic work.

(2) Another reason and a very practical one is, that the church requires this money to meet the claims of this growing time in our country. God has called us to do a great work in this land. We have been trying to do it. But we need more money and we need it now. We need it to carry the Gospel into all parts of the Dominion. Our population will probably double itself in the next decade, and upon our church rests in part the responsibility as to whether that great population will be leavened by Christianity. We need it also for our colleges in order to have an adequate supply of ministers. We need it for our benevolent funds, for our aged ministers, and for our widows' and orphans' fund. And we should be thankful that it is needed.

(3) Another reason why it is asked is because it is the duty of the Church to provide it. It is not a matter of sentiment only, but a matter of duty. If it is not provided our cause must suffer. We will not be able to take advantage of the opportunity God is everywhere setting before us. Our church will be much crippled. We will fall behind in the work required of us. This the church should not allow. God is calling us to go forward and we should obey His call. Let everyone then come to the help of the Lord in this crisis.

(4) Another reason why it is asked by the church is, because our people are abundantly able to provide it. We do not contribute up to our ability, large as our givings may seem to be. Confident in the church's ability the Assembly informs us of what is required and we rejoice that the church is so cheerfully responding.

All should bear in mind that what is given to the Century Fund is over and above our regular contributions to the Schemes of the Church.

#### The Second Point.

How much should I contribute to the Common Fund and how much to the local debt Fund.

This is a question which each of us must answer for himself. In the Century Fund there are two parts. There is first what is called the Common Fund, for which \$600,000 00 is desired. This money is required for the missionary, educational, and benevolent work of the Church. To this it is desired everyone should contribute. If we do

not get this money the object of the Twentieth Century Fund will not be gained. This part of the Fund is that which is most needed by the Church. Every loyal friend of the Church should contribute as largely as possible to this Common Fund. It should not be neglected in order to do more for our own congregational needs.

The second part of the Fund for which it is hoped \$400,000.00 will be raised, is for the wiping out of local debts. It is hoped that 60 per cent. of that which is raised in our congregations, with debts of their own, will go to the Common Fund, and 40 per cent. to the local debt. This Century Fund is payable by May, 1901, in such instalments as suit the contributor.

Remember this is a special and extraordinary Fund. It is only this once a contribution is asked for this Common Fund. Other years remain in which to wipe out the local debts. This is to be done now. Therefore this occasion should not be used for the wiping out of the local debts to the injury of the Common Fund. Such is the appeal that is made to us. We are assured our members will not be behind those of other churches in their liberality; but will be in the front, as they should be.

#### The Third Point.

The third point is an important one. Namely: What connection has my contribution to this Fund with my religious life? It is desired by the Church that we should not only contribute with intelligence, but from right motives. We are asked to help in this work as those who are in sympathy with the Church of Christ. In this movement God sets before us our opportunity of advancing His cause. It is a test of our faith. It is an endorsement of our prayers. Thus to consecrate our substance to God is a condition of our enjoying a continuance of His blessing.

With this gift let our prayers go up to God, for a revival of His work in our own lives, and in our families and congregations, so that the beginning of the twentieth century will mark a great spiritual awakening and a mighty forward movement in all good works. If our faith is real and living, we cannot stand aloof from this great effort the Church is making.

Let it be a call to us to consider anew our responsibilities, and pray for that willing heart which makes our offerings acceptable to Him. That we acted generously, that we did our part as we ought to do, that we stood by the cause of our Lord in this day of effort, will assure us anew of the reality of our faith. This will be an exhibition of the meaning and the spirit which we put into our prayers. So presented, this sacrifice of thanksgiving will bring down upon us and upon the whole Church an abundant blessing.—Com.