

have congregations with debts on their property ranging all the way from fifty dollars up to eighty thousand dollars. Our total indebtedness is not short of half a million dollars; probably it is very considerably in advance of this sum. It is a serious question for the congregations primarily interested, it is a serious question for the Church at large, how to deal with this vast mountain of debt. The interest and management of this aggregate cannot be much if at all short of \$40,000 a year. This sum, devoted to Home and Foreign Missions, and the support of our Colleges and our French Evangelization Scheme, would relieve all from financial embarrassment, and enable the Church to prosecute her work with renewed vigour. Is it not time to begin in sober earnest a campaign for the annihilation of Church debt, so that our property may be our own, freed from the inconvenient grasp of the money lender?

Some of the larger and wealthier congregations could remove their load with scarcely an appreciable effort. All they need is to have their attention seriously directed to the enterprise. Poor congregations might reasonably count upon the kindly sympathy of more fortunate neighbours. In Scotland, wonders have been effected of late years in stimulating congregations by small grants in aid. Perhaps something of this kind will be required in our own Church before the half-million can be flung off. But, at any rate, individual congregations can do much,—must do much. The burden is in the first instance theirs. No plan that can be devised can relieve them of it. It is a duty to the rising generation, and emphatically to the vast mission fields of our Church, that older congregations should shake themselves free from every burden and address themselves with all their might to the work of spreading the Gospel.

Edward Kimball, a Christian layman in the neighbouring States, has stirred up at least one hundred congregations to pay off the debts on their church buildings, amounting to an aggregate of over a million dollars. Mr. Kimball's first great service was in rousing the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, to grapple with a debt of \$110,000. On one Sabbath day \$33,000 were secured, and three Sabbaths after the remainder was pledged. The whole amount was paid in six months, and the mortgage cancelled. Here then is one congregation relieved of an annual burden of seven or eight thousand dollars. The people are in a position to give with greatly increased liberality to all the Schemes of the Church. For a church to be in debt is to be "in the land of Egypt, in the house of bondage," and the pastor of the church here referred to gave eloquent utter-

ance to the feelings of immense relief experienced by himself and his people when they found themselves free;—A church in Brooklyn, under Mr. Kimball's leadership, removed in one year a debt of \$65,000. A church in New Jersey overcame a debt of \$47,000; another raised \$43,000. Who among us will set the example?

DEATH OF HON. GEORGE BROWN.

We unite with the entire Press of Canada, and the public at large, in expressing deep regret at the untimely death of Mr. Brown. Under any circumstances the death of such a man is a national calamity, but the immediate cause of his death makes it harder to become reconciled to the melancholy fact. Mr. Brown was born in Edinburgh in 1818, and was only sixty-one years and five months old at the time of his decease. We say *only*, for, considering how long he has occupied a prominent position in Canada, and the extraordinary amount and variety of his public services, he seems to have lived much longer. Mr. Brown came with his family to New York in 1838. In 1843, he removed to Toronto, and established the "Banner," which made way for the "Globe" in 1844. As a journalist and politician he proved himself a man of great ability, energy, and integrity. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, which owes him a lasting debt of gratitude for unvarying courtesy and consideration in the columns of his newspaper as well as for his personal influence. He was long a member of Cooke's Church, Toronto, under the ministry of Rev. Dr. Gregg. Latterly he was connected with the St. James' Square Church, of which Rev. J. M. King is pastor. By these ministers his funeral service was conducted. His remains were followed to the grave by a vast concourse of people from all parts of the country. The members of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, who were then in session, joined in the procession.

We should carry up our affections to the mansions prepared for us above, where eternity is the measure, felicity the state, angels the company, the Lamb the light; and God the inheritance and portion of His people forever.—*Jeremy Taylor.*