

borne by members of the committee personally. The reception they have met with from our schools has far exceeded our most sanguine expectations, and the circulation already places their future financial success beyond a doubt. But the heavy initial expense remains. A publisher could afford to wait for reimbursement from the growing subscription list, but the committee has no capital to draw upon, and our schools have a right to relieve its members of personal liability as soon as possible. A small contribution from each school would easily meet all that is wanted and place the committee beyond the range of future deficits. We would venture to ask every teacher into whose hands this *Syllabus* comes, 'Has your school contributed?' and, if not, will you bring the matter before its authorities?

Handsome Bequests.

It is not an inappropriate thing, but singularly appropriate and perhaps auspicious that among so many appeals for additional funds for the schemes of the church, we are able to publish an account of gifts of large amount, by the late Mr. Robert Anderson, Montreal, whose will has been made public. For Foreign Missions \$25,000; Home Missions \$5,000; French Evangelization \$2,500; Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund \$1,000; Widows' and Orphans' Fund \$1,000; Presbyterian College \$25,000; also endowment for a scholarship \$2,000; Queen's College \$2,000; Manitoba College \$5,000; Missions in Manitoba Presbytery \$4,000; Students' Missionary Society, Montreal \$1,000; City Mission Work \$1,000; Nazareth St. Sunday School \$500. The total amount of his bequests for public objects of a religious and philanthropic character is \$115,000.

The Duty of the Clergy.

Men will know nothing of the teaching of Scripture just as long as preachers allow such ignorance to reign, says a writer in the *Biblical World*. There must be instruction before there is knowledge. The Sunday School has few teachers capable of performing the task, and if the pulpit does not supplement its evangelistic and social activity with genuine instruction in the doctrines of the Bible, the church will be simply an aggressive reform club. That it will do good is beyond question; that it will do harm is probable; that it will become less and less learned in the Scriptures is certain.

There will be always men who are students of the word. These men search for truth in itself. Perhaps too frequently they are neglectful of the consequences of truth, perhaps sometimes they put forth as truth that which is but its shadow. But none the less do they and will they always search for that which is taught by Jesus.

Shall these men and those who follow them become teachers of an esoteric but true Christianity, while the mass of Christians, content with catchwords and half truths, attend to the active side of religion? That will be to divide the body of believers into those who act but do not think and those who think but do not act. And this result appears inevitable if the ministry does not decide otherwise. The pastor is the one man who, because of his position, can make doctrine the incentive to action. An intelligent church is the offspring of a thinking pastor, and, if Paul is right, its renewed mind is the means by which it will gain a transfigured life.

Divorce Law. On the subject of divorce the United States Supreme Court has recently laid down a very important and far-reaching decision. It is to the effect that if a divorce be granted in the courts of any one State of this country, the effect of that decision follows

the parties in every other State where they may go. If the decree of divorce does not allow the one who is divorced to marry again in that State, it also forbids him to marry again in any other State. And if he shall so marry, he is liable to prosecution for bigamy. The basis of this decision is the clause in the Constitution of the United States which reads. "Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the . . . judicial proceedings of every State." This decision is in the interest of good morals.

Foreign Mission Fund. Following important statement has been issued by Rev. R. P. Mackay, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee:—"The receipts of the Foreign Mission General Fund are at this date \$4,300 less than at the corresponding date of last year, and the Fund is at the present time over \$34,000 in debt. Additions made to the staff in India and Honan increase the obligations of the Committee this year by about \$4,000. It has also been found necessary to make large expenditures in India for building purposes in order to secure the health and efficiency of our Missionaries. It is thus seen that at this date we should be at least \$8,000 in advance of the amount actually received." Pastors are requested to interest themselves and congregations and societies of young people in the effort to avoid an embarrassing deficit at the end of the year. It is requested that all funds be sent to Rev. R. H. Warden, D. D.

Augmentation Of Stipends. The General Assembly's Committee on Augmentation of Stipends, will meet in the Board Room of the Presbyterian Offices, Toronto, next Tuesday the 7th of April, prior to which date all Presbytery reports, and other documents, for the Committee, should be sent to the Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto. The meeting has been called at a later date than usual, in the hope that sufficient funds would be forthcoming, to justify the Committee in paying in full the grants for the past six months. We learn that at this date some \$6,000 is still required, to meet in full the expenditure for the year, if the grants are to be paid without reduction. It is earnestly hoped that treasurers of congregations will immediately forward whatever money they have in hand for Augmentation, to Rev. Dr. Warden, and that all the congregations that have not already done so, will make a special collection on behalf of this Fund, to be forwarded prior to the 15th of April.

We are constantly receiving grateful words from subscribers because of the helpful character of our Christian Endeavor Department. We ask those making use of it and who so highly prize it to speak of its merits to others.

The Presbyterian Church at Jeannette, Pa., has made an innovation in the way of missionary work by arranging a Men's Missionary Society, with ex-Burgess A. J. Case, president, George Lohr, secretary, and W. C. Harvey, treasurer. The society reaches people whom the ladies' branch of the society could not reach, and is doing good work.

La Semaine Religieuse of Quebec calls attention to the fact that the parish of Kamouraska is being rapidly depopulated by emigration, and dates the beginning of this movement from the time that it became a seaside resort. It claims that the same thing is true of all the parishes on the Lower St. Lawrence frequented by summer visitors. The presence of these impoverishes the people by withdrawing them from their regular occupations and in consequence they are obliged to betake themselves elsewhere for a livelihood. Whether the explanation is the true one or not there seems to be little doubt of the facts.