

sidewalk, went joyfully to the cellar, only to find the bin empty. The driver had delivered his load into an opening of the city sewer. The editor continues, we are constrained to remark that we have known of greatly needed contributions for religious and charitable work bestowed with generous motive and by reasons of careless haste and want of proper investigation, delivered where they are of as little use as this coal is. Sometimes, too, the money thus deposited in the wrong place has been trust funds. The lesson is worth learning by all readers of this journal. Our gifts and the way we dispose of them may be a surer index of our real selves than our words or our prayers.

—The Montreal Witness has opened its columns to representative men of the leading Protestant denominations of the city of Montreal, for the discussion of the question of Christian Union. Many good things have been written. The symposium will be of value in this, that men will be able to look at things from the other fellow's point of view. The Rev. J. A. Gordon, pastor of the First Baptist church, has laid down some principles which he holds to be basal to any re-union of the different denominations that would be worthy of the name.

1. That there is a visible institution or organization in connection with the Kingdom of God on earth known as the Church.
2. That there are two divinely appointed ordinances essential to the existence and orderly continuance of a New Testament church, namely, baptism and the Lord's supper, and that those are to continue until the end of the age or "till He comes."
3. That an intelligent believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a proper subject for Christian baptism and church membership.
4. That the immersion in water of such an intelligent believer in Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord, by a duly qualified administrator, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is valid Christian baptism.
5. That such an intelligent believer so baptized is entitled to all the rights and privileges of ordinary church membership. That the principles laid down by Pastor Gordon will be accepted by His Pedo-baptist brethren at the present stage of their eccligate interest is not at all probable; but that there are Pedo-baptist denominations that could unite and so conserve their energies and make aggressive work more effective is now admitted by most persons, and that there are Baptist denominations that could join hands in promoting the interests of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is also clear. Let the discussion go on in a kindly Christian way, it will do good.

Day of Prayer for Colleges.

Lord's Day, Feb 8th, will be the day of prayer for colleges, and, by request of the Faculty of Acadia, we call the attention of the churches to the subject. We have our schools at Wolfville and we believe in prayer; and it is therefore, to be taken for granted that we shall, as in years past, unite in seeking divine blessing on the schools we love so well. Those who manage our educational work, our Board of Governors, and others, need the insight, devotion, motives and power which only the Holy Spirit can give. Those who teach need the ability, wisdom and power of utterance which only the same spirit can impart. And those who are in the days of privilege of a life time need humility, "mother of all the virtues" and the quest for truth and life that none but God can give. We desire success in our work, and to be abiding our work must be spiritual, and the secret of all spiritual success is an immediate and uniform submission to the influences of the Holy Ghost.

We have carried on our work in the past, because of our conviction that it is of God, and our work has given the strength of purpose to many a life. We desire our young people to have convictions of the value of knowledge, of truth, of life—"Convictions of any sort, a living practical consciousness of any kind,—is of great value, because it is only this species of knowledge that moves mankind, convince a man, that is, give him a consciousness, of the truth of a principle in politics, in trade, or in religion, and you actuate him politically, commercially, or religiously." "But the conviction of sin, with what it includes and leads to, is of more worth to man than all other convictions." And it is the office of the Holy Spirit to convince of sin. "Never is a mass of human beings so centrally stirred, as when the Spirit of God is poured out upon it, and from no movement in human society do such lasting and blessed consequences flow, as from a genuine revival of religion."

And the influences of the spirit may be obtained by asking for them. There are other gifts of God which may be asked for with deep and agonizing desire, and it is not certain that they will be granted. This is the case with temporal blessings. But no man ever supplicated in the earnestness of his soul for the influences of the Holy Spirit, and was ultimately refused."

We understand that Dr. Trotter will preach at the morning service and probably Rev. Mr. Hatch and Dr. Sawyer will speak at the meeting in College Hall in the evening. The day will be a good one for our pastors to use in directing the thoughts of their congregations to the need of the spiritual in the work of education.

Honoring the Lord by Systematic Giving.

It has been laid on a committee, of which, Rev. J. C. Spurr is chairman, Rev. J. L. Milner, secretary, and A. W. Sterns, treasurer, to try and secure the hearty co-operation of the Baptist churches in this province, in the matter of supporting our missionary and educational enterprises.

If you will kindly bear with me a few moments, I will try to say a few plain things to myself and you, on this subject, in as kind a way as possible.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Company at Sydney are important industries; with large capital, a great number of employees, and a purpose that will no doubt be very far reaching. The capital is owned by persons in different parts of Canada and the United States.

We may not own any shares in these large companies, but we are met here today stock-holders in corporations, having far more important aims. I refer to our Home and Foreign Missionary enterprises together with Acadia University and the other undertakings for the Maritime Baptist Convention. We have put our hand to the plough, we have engaged with our brethren in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to help support these objects. Twenty-three thousand dollars is the amount required for this year. Sixteen thousand dollars is expected from Nova Scotia. Six thousand dollars from New Brunswick and one thousand dollars from this province. That would mean for this Island about one cent per week from each of our church members.

When a man buys very heavily of railroad or other stocks, he is sometimes called a plunger. The Maritime Convention evidently does not expect many plungers from P. E. I. in the stock of our Denominational Work, when they assign us an amount equal to one cent per week per member.

But even this small amount will not be raised without some system and effort. I have here a schedule of the contributions of the Baptist churches of this province for Denominational Work (apart from the Women's Aid Society offerings) for each year since 1883. I will not weary you with all the figures, but will simply read the contributions for three years. In 1881 we raised \$732. In 1891 \$798, and in 1901 \$483, or in other words in 1881 about one cent per week, per member, and in 1901 about half a cent. This decline in our giving is not because we are getting poorer. For the last ten years our province has been steadily increasing in wealth. Methods of farming have been improving, farms have been growing in value, until the census returns just issued (as summarized in our local newspapers), show that the value of farm property in Prince Edward Island is thirty millions of dollars, and farm products are worth seven millions of dollars. The average value of farms is \$2314. We have today under cultivation 3700 more acres than we had ten years ago. In 1890 there were four cheese factories in this province with an output of \$8500. In 1901 forty-seven cheese and butter factories were in operation with a product of \$566 824.

Has not the Lord been increasing his temporal gifts to us, and have we not been decreasing our offerings to the extension of his cause. Can we call this keeping faith with the Convention, can we call this being honest to our obligations, can we call this bringing all the tithes into the store house, can we call this, honoring the Lord with our substance.

You will no doubt agree with me, when I say that an average of one cent per week per member, which the Convention asks us to contribute for the spread of the gospel, is far below what the Lord requires of us. And we can safely affirm, that there can be no question as to our ability to give that amount. Do you ask then where is the difficulty? In the first place, is it not in our failure to fully recognize the fact that God has committed the extension and maintenance of his kingdom to human instrumentality and not to the service of angels—and in the second place, to our lack of system in making our offerings unto the Lord. The scripture plan is "upon the first day of week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him. Notice the time, the persons spoken to, and the amount. If this method were followed we would have no trouble in raising amounts that we now think very large.

There was once a man who thought himself very poor, so poor that he could give but little money for any good work. One day a lady asked him if he wouldn't put his name down on her paper promising to give \$18 25 during the year to the different causes for which his church was trying to work. He looked at her with amazement "Why my dear woman!" said he, "I never had \$18 25 a year to give in my life, and never expect to have. I'm a poor man." "Well," she said, "if you really think you cannot afford that sum, wouldn't you give five cents a day for this year." "Why, yes," he said, "five cents a day is a little bit, certainly, if that will do you any good I can manage that," and he did, and enjoyed it. You all know the difference between five cents a day and \$18 25 per year.

Dear friends, let us adopt the Bible plan, and lay on the Lord's altar, on the first day of every week our offerings to Him. Let us adopt the envelope system, that is now so widely used and with such good results.

Systematic giving may be illustrated as follows:

30 persons giving 10c per week amounts to \$150 00 per year
25 " " 15c " " " " " " 195 00 " "
25 " " 25c " " " " " " 325 00 " "
12 " " 50c " " " " " " 312 00 " "
5 " " 75c " " " " " " 195 00 " "
3 " " \$1 00 " " " " " " 150 00 " "

Thus One Hundred will give annually \$1339 00

If the rates were only half of the foregoing, the total would be above what is sometimes raised. One hundred persons can easily in this way raise an amount that would comfortably support their pastor, and assist the various benevolent schemes of the church. It must be carefully noted, that proportionate giving must be regular to be effective. Should any be absent on one or more Lord's day from their church the amount must be secretly laid aside. It is the Lord's money. It is devoted, and brought when the worshipper appears again in the House of God.

This is a subject that should have careful study. Perhaps it is more closely allied with the spiritual death in the land than we think for. For every text in the Bible that speaks of prayer, there can be shown three about giving.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." "The silver and the gold are His." "The cattle upon a thousand hills are His also." And we who are entrusted with more or less of these things, are not proprietors, but stewards of God to manage them for His interests, and we are expected to return unto the Lord His own with increase.

Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

The new year, in this country, brings our municipal elections. Every city, town, village, hamlet, has its own local campaign; and some of these are as exciting as the choice of a legislature. The chief city of Ontario is Toronto; and all eyes are fixed upon the polling that places one man at the head of that community of 200,000 souls. The contest this year was unusually interesting for Baptists, and great was the rejoicing when it was announced that the mayor of the Queen City for 1903 is Mr. Thomas Urquhart, barrister and solicitor. The new mayor was born in a country village 44 years ago, and stayed there 20 years. Then he emigrated to the city, studied law, received a call to the bar and began to make a record for himself, such as is often made by the lad from the country. Now from the mayor's chair he can look back upon a host of city youths who were sitting from one drawing room to another, while he was poring over Blackstone and grinding for exams. Mr. Urquhart is a deacon in Walmer Road Baptist church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He invited his pastor, Dr. W. W. Weeks, to open the first session of the City Council with prayer; and then he proceeded to instruct the city engineer to compel the street railway to carry out the terms of its contract. There will be no stagnation around the City Hall this year.

Brandon College, our young and enterprising school for Manitoba has found good friends. Mr. and Mrs. Davies of Toronto, who have financed the enterprise from the beginning, have shown their approval of the conduct of the school and their faith in its future by donating \$67,000 to the endowment fund; and Lord Strathcona, who began life as a junior clerk in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, has added \$1000 to the other gifts.

The result of the Temperance campaign of last year was a majority of nearly 100,000 votes for the enforcement of a prohibitory law; and though this is short of the required number, the Temperance people have already sent a delegation of 200, to ask of the government the abolition of the bar and the supply of liquor to clubs.

The Century church, Toronto, is the youngest Baptist church in the city, being but two years old. During the past year the increase has been 19 by letter and 33 by baptism. There are 266 in the Sunday school. The income was \$2 800. Under the auspices of the City Extension Board, a new building will soon be erected and the church has already raised \$1,800 for that purpose. The membership is now 180.

Port Hope, Ont.

Rev. Wm. E. Hall.

I cannot indulge in expressions of grief at the announcement which appears in your columns of the release from suffering of my life-long cotemporary and friend. We started together to climb the hill at Horton Academy and kept in touch, until he was ordered to quit, and went home to die. That was more than forty years ago. He came rolling up the hill one day, a mass of flesh, to my astonishment. He had been nursed at home, and fresh air and his mother's cream had brought him round. But he found that confinement in College rooms, rapidly placed him where he was again, and he, much against his cherished desires, was obliged to forego the College course. However, he loved and studied the Bible, and was always able to present its truths clearly and with a good deal ofunction. He was a successful pastor, feeding the lamb and the sheep, and weeping over poor sinners. He had a talent for building churches, how many I do not remember. After his temporary breakdowns, we would sometimes say that "Brother Hall won't build another meeting house" and he did—several more.

Wm. Hall was a Baptist through and through and rounded off; a specimen of the men who have built up our part of the kingdom in the Maritime Provinces. He spent his strength for the churches; and now we all unite to say, "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord; they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Amherst, Jan. 31.

D. A. STREAN.