

to know what their revenue is likely to be until the close of the year, when the expense has all been incurred. Even up to within a week of the close of the church year I feared that nearly all of the schemes were to be behind. To give an illustration of the difficulty of forming an estimate of what is likely to be got. The receipts for Home Missions in February, 1903, were abnormally large because of a special appeal then made. I estimated that we might receive as large an amount in February this year, though this was doubtful. As a matter of fact instead of \$41,000, (the amount got in February last year,) we this year received upwards of \$56,000 that month. The result of the year's work should call forth devout gratitude to God upon behalf of the whole church. I desire to express grateful thanks to the many generous friends who so liberally contributed to bring about the result and to the large number of ministers to whose influence and help we are so greatly indebted. At the same time it is well to state that had all ministers and congregations responded as so many have done, the receipts of the year would have been at least fifty per cent greater than they are. The work of the church is expanding in every direction and the Committees are undertaking liabilities for this new year considerably in excess of those of the past. To insure sufficient funds to meet these liabilities it is very much to be desired than in every congregation and mission station of the church, there should be some systematic plan adopted to raise money, and that instead of delaying until the last month of the year, steps be immediately taken to secure contributions. It is not necessary to state that people generally will contribute a much larger sum if they are asked to do so weekly or monthly than if they are only asked to do so in one payment towards the close of the year. With the hearty co-operation of ministers and sessions the amount raised by our church for its mission and benevolent work can, without difficulty, easily be doubled.

Toronto, March 14, 1904. R.H.W.

Echoes From Our Pulpits.

A King's Daughter.

Speaking in Knox church, Hamilton, under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A., he remarked: Woman's glory, was her womanhood. No matter what else she had, unless she had true womanhood, she had nothing. The peculiar characteristics of womanhood were purity of heart and life, gentleness, consideration, spirituality. Queen Victoria's greatest royalty was the grace of her character. Woman's sphere was her own. She was not undeveloped man. The glory of manhood was its majesty, of womanhood its grace. Her sweetness and moral height, her gracious household ways, her power to uplift society were woman's sphere. Her influence was enormous. Endowed with true womanhood she was life's fragrance, strength and anchor. The place for her influence was the home, but she also could do great good in benevolent and philanthropic work. The family was the fundamental principal in a woman's life. Society had gone crazy, and the women must get it back to its proper place. He touched, in passing, on gambling, drinking and other social vices. The modern conception of society seems to be that its object is pastime and gossip. It was in woman's power to bring it back and make it pure and uplifting. Woman should enforce the same law and life for man as woman. Woman without Christ he considered a monstrosity, for all that she has she owes to the Saviour. He appealed to women

to come out for Christ and the home.

A Wonderful Book.

Speaking of the Bible at a meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Toronto, Rev. Robert J. Hanson, D.D., of Montreal, said there were three predominating features about it—its unity, its vitality and its adaptability. Under the first head, though the matter composing the Scriptures covered 1500 years, and came from many minds, from many lands and from many ages, the same divine inspiration still pervades the whole. As a proof of the vitality of the Bible, man of vast intellect in every age had attempted to overthrow its teaching. Neither the genius of a Voltaire nor a Paine had yet succeeded in doing this. Its adaptability is evidenced by the fact that the Bible is the only book that can be translated into different languages without losing any of its charm of language.

A Crisis in India.

Rev. Dr. Wilkie, returned Missionary, who preached in MacKay and Erskine churches on Sunday, says India is at the present time at a crisis in her history. What direction her future will take will depend largely on what the British people do within the next few years to win the land for Christ.

He points out that while the country is still steeped in the worst sort of superstition and misery there are many signs which go to show that the masses of the people are looking for something different than they have.

The caste system is likely in time, if Christianity is systematically preached, to make India Christian. The low caste natives who are about three quarters of the whole population are becoming greatly dissatisfied with their lot. Under the caste system, a man who is born a boot maker must live and die a boot maker. He cannot rise in the social scale. Brahminism teaches that after some 4,800,000 rebirths a low caste native may rise to be a Brahmin or high caste, but when the low caste natives see other low caste who adopt Christianity secure well paid positions under the British government they begin to think that it was time that the caste system was abolished.

So to-day there is a strong tendency on the part of the low caste natives to throw themselves wholesale into Christianity. The high caste natives discourage the education of the low castes. The low castes know that under Christianity they will get it. To-day the low castes are up in arms against the Brahmins. Christians everywhere should pray that the door be not suddenly closed in India as the result of the present war in the far east.

Dr. Wilkie adds that one of the brightest signs that woman in India will in time be emancipated from her degraded position, is the movement of educated young men to have educated wives. As the result of the demands for educated wives, girls' schools are springing up all over India. As the tendency of Hinduism is to break up family life, the move towards the education of women will be another blow to priestcraft and superstition.

Preciousness of the Bible.

On "Bible Sunday" Rev. E. W. Pantton, M.D., preached a sermon on the "Preciousness of the possession which we have in the Bible."

1. It is precious because it is from God. The nobler the character and the purer the genius of the man who gives his fellow-men a great work the more valuable it is in their eyes. Since this is a principle that everyone feels, how much more so is it when

applied to God, our Heavenly Father, as the author of this blessed Bible. Our God is a God of infinite wisdom. This word was suited to all classes and conditions of man and as He was of infinite love its truths have come down through the ages as a benediction to cheer and inspire the hearts of men through all time.

2. It is precious because of its illuminating power. Peter says, "Ye do well to take heed to it as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." The preacher then went on to quote the benighted condition that prevailed among the children of man, a darkness so obscure in the earlier ages that nothing but this revelation was able to shape. Nor do we require to look far back in the world's history in order to see the glorious illuminating power of God's word. Compare Christian England with any nation where this Word has never found entrance, and we are made at once to see its transforming power over the hearts and lives of men.

3. Because it is a certain revelation, and up in this its importance centres. For what after all, although the word is transcendent in its conceptions, if we are not certain as to its source. If it be not from God then with one blow its authority is destroyed and its teachings will drop to the level of those of Socrates, Plato or Bacon. It is no wonder, therefore that the church, early in her history, through her councils, prayerfully sought to settle the important matter of the Canon of Scriptures.

Perhaps the inspiration of Scripture, has never been attacked with such fury as during the last twenty-five years by those who are designated the higher critics. These men have brought the profoundest scholarship and the keenest scrutiny to the word of God to try to discover the slightest flaw. But after all it is discovered that while there are some slight errors, every fundamental truth stands in its integrity. Here the preacher enlarged on the preciousness of the Bible as referring to man's future destiny. Since all that has been said is true, concerning God's Word, how precious ought we to regard it who have been so richly favored by its possession, and how glad we should be to have it in our power to send its good tidings to those who are still in the dark places of the earth.

The controversy about the use of a Communion cup common to all communicants is extending in Germany, and, in the absence of more important topics, is creating considerable stir in ecclesiastical circles. It has become quite a usual occurrence for congregations to hold meetings to discuss the evil consequences following on the use of a common chalice, and it is to be feared that the fewer the communicants in a congregation the greater the interest taken in this question.

People who feel an inclination, as most do, to "read up" on Japan, Korea, and Russia and their relations and entanglements, will find in THE LIVING AGE for March 5 a very serviceable classified list, several pages long of the freshest and most accessible books on these countries.

The article on "The Most Corrupt City in the World" which THE LIVING AGE for February 20 reprints from *The National Review*, accords the doubtful distinction expressed in the title to Philadelphia and cites an abundance of evidence to justify it.