

practicable, we venture to suggest that the pastors of the churches in the city and suburbs should give their Wednesday evening prayer meetings an evangelistic turn, and afford professing Christians an opportunity of doing more personal work for the Master than they have hitherto done.

STIRRING LETTER FROM DR. CAMPBELL.

Plain Statement of Facts.

DEAR "DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN": Statements are so soon forgotten, that I venture to remind your readers that, at 31st. Dec. the Century Fund Committee estimated the position substantially as follows:—"Amounts actually subscribed are, to Common fund, \$460,000; to Debt fund, \$670,000. "Estimates of additional subscriptions expected by congregations reporting indicate, in our judgment, that, by 1st of May, these will bring up the Common Fund to \$500,000; debt fund to \$730,000; and the total to \$1,230,000. A further statement was handed out, declaring "that the non-reporting congregations were generally so weak, or debt-laden, that not more than \$25,000 to \$25,000 for Common Fund would likely be subscribed by them; practically not more than might cover shrinkage on the \$500,000 in sight.

On the basis of these facts, the Committee appealed for the \$100,000 needed to make up the \$600,000 called for by the Assembly, for the Common fund; and suggested methods by which congregations might answer the appeals. During the past month, hundreds of personal letters have been written, and many congregations and Presbyteries have had the whole position pressed on their attention. Every opening for work has been attended to, and a good deal of quiet determination has been expressed, from many quarters of the church that this \$100,000 must be and will be raised.

It would be more interesting, no doubt, if every week I could give a resume of the week's efforts in the shape of notes, getting of large contributions, and many additional subscriptions. But the period for that kind of note is past. There was a subscription of several hundreds sent in the other day from an individual in a congregation where the officials were sure that nothing could be done for Common Fund. There were \$50 from another congregation of the same kind. There are many such cases coming to the knowledge of the Treasurer. There were \$50, and \$400 and \$100, respectively, from congregations in the N. West, "given in good spirit though times are trying," as says the agent. "That congregation that has been lagging, will get to work now, and \$500 or \$600 will be raised." "My own will I hope make \$1,500 and at least \$1,300. "We are up to \$4,000 now and may reach \$4,500. "Send us an agent and we will make a thorough canvass." "We have \$4,500, but for the last pull we must try for another thousand." "We are starting out next Monday and every one will be visited." "We must ask the united prayers of those who see that this is a work of love," is the word of one who purposes adding to an already large subscription, and this is indeed the central idea of the whole movement. "In our Presbytery, we will go over the work again carefully in all our congregations." "We have yet one or two places to hear from, but you may be sure that we shall reach the \$14,000 estimated, and not only that, but that that

amount will be paid in." "This Presbytery will be all canvassed before we close."

As I said, the time for striking results is past. We are on the last lap and have not much breath to spare. But these are extracts from recent letters and interviews and I take them as indicating that the work is going on, and that we shall not come far short in what we set out to do. There be prophets of evil—specially amongst those who who "pass by on the other side." But I shall not believe that our people who, almost everywhere, gathered in unwonted numbers at the special communion season, are to be forgetful of His benefits. I believe that prayer will be made, and that His mercies will be meditated on, and that the love of Christ will constrain them to such willing-hearted sacrifices, for His sake, that it will be found on the 1st of May that the whole amount asked for has been secured.

Then I see it suggested, that "some say we are being kept in the dark, and there is more promised, or as good as promised, than has been reported." I answer that by referring again to the facts, and by assuring everyone, that the committee was too anxious to send out an encouraging report to keep back anything. There are no "amounts as good as promised," known to the committee, or to any member of it, which have not been reported. Much diligent work will be needed in the reported congregations, to secure the \$40,000 on which the committee are depending to make up the \$500,000, spoken of for common fund. There must be a going over of the work everywhere, that "here a little, and there a little," may be added, if the additional \$100,000 is to be obtained.

I have to imagine how this idea should have gained any ground, and it looks to me as if some must have dreamed. This dream, for instance: "How easily might a score of men of means in our church make a concerted movement, and provide the \$100,000 in a single day. The Methodist men of means put in over \$200,000 in that way, and no doubt our committee have some such combination in view." Pity it is but a dream!

Or this again: "The 'strong' congregations, who can so easily bear a debt that would crush their weaker neighbors, will come to the rescue and by special effort will square the account." That looks reasonable to "outsiders," but "inside" information does not lead the committee to expect that any large proportion of the \$100,000 will come in that way, though, no doubt, there will be help from the 'strong' congregations.

My conclusion is that it is the pressing duty of all lovers of the church, no more to dream of what wealthy men or strong congregations may do. Let us all wake to the assurance that, in our present position, we need not take "windfalls" into special consideration. We are now in sight of twelve hundred thousand dollars. Rich and poor, and most of all, men in medium circumstances have provided that sum. The one drawback is that by a mistake in our apportionments, we have only \$500,000, whilst we intended to have, and feel that we are bound to have, \$600,000 as a common fund, given thankfully for the Master's work.

How came we to make that mistake? Largely because we dreamed of what wealthy men and strong congregations would do. "There will be men who will lead off with \$20,000 or \$25,000." "They are waiting to see that the church is in earnest, and then \$10,000, \$15,000, even \$20,000 may be

hoped for." Those strong congregations will not think of debt, but, when they set to work they will pile up tens of thousands for the Common Fund." So we dreamed, and said "may divide ours not 6 to 4, but 4 to 6, for our debt cripples us not a little." And now we are awake, and find that we have twelve hundred thousand, but only five hundred thousand for common fund, and need one hundred thousand to set matters right.

Shall we then begin again to dream? Surely not! Wide awake and in earnest we must be for the next three months, and taking hold together, the wealthy, the comfortable and the poor, we can gather the one hundred thousand as we gathered the twelve.

We have 110,000 families, and 30,000 single persons, enrolled in our congregations and missions.

In the reported congregations, there are thousands, and, I venture to say, tens of thousands who have not given a dollar yet, and many of them have held back just because they could not give more than a dollar or two, and to put it on the book would make too great a contrast. Now when dollars are in order, let it be known and let everyone be invited to respond to the new appeal. Many will gladly do so. And of those who have already subscribed, it is safe to say that, if properly informed and appealed to, few will re-use to add a dollar or more.

Thus, if in any congregation of ordinary ability, the matter is discussed and planned for, it should be possible to secure as many dollars more, as there are families; and that especially in congregations that are rejoicing over telling reductions of debt.

Then as to the congregations that have not reported, and of which many are weak, there is a similar possibility of getting an average of one dollar per family for common fund. Some of them, of course, will do far more, some of the weakest may have to do less. But if only every one would do, for the help of others, as has been done by others, and by their church, in the past, for their help, there would not be a congregation anywhere but have its share, and as large a share as I am writing of, in the Common Fund.

And then the "strong" could fill up the crannies in the cairn and set a fitting cope stone to it.

Or is all this also a dream? I hope not, for at this writing I see no other way in which it can be done. If it should be like a dream may it not be that the Spirit of the Lord may make it as His vision to many, and that He may lead us forward to the doing of the work? For it is to-day, as always, "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." I am yours

R. CAMPBELL.

Perth, Feb. 9th, 1901.

The teachers in our Sabbath Schools should be able to answer satisfactorily an examination in the leading doctrines of our Church, and in the history of the part of the Bible under study during the year. To insist upon this would go far to better the staff of Sabbath School teachers in our Church.

The disciples were bidden to tarry in Jerusalem till spiritual endowment for active work was given. Tarrying is such pleasant work that some would fain remain after the endowment has come.