

Messenger and Visitor

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Editor.

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The Church and Money.

The gospel of cash is to be preached as well as the gospel of grace. Money is a prime requisite in the work of the church. There is a stewardship of money as well as of time and talent. The gift of prayer and testimony by lip and life is no more demanded of a church member than a right use of what he earns. To give money for the support of God's cause is as necessary as to praise and pray. All cannot sing and it may be difficult for some to pray, *in public*, but all can serve the Lord with what they earn. Some people have a special talent for making money. This talent should be consecrated to the service of the Lord as conscientiously as that of any other possession. Ever since the day when Abraham gave tithes to the 'Priest of the Most High God,' it has been known that the service of God requires money. The Jews gave the tenth as an absolute requirement, with many other offerings, which would in many cases, raise the total giving to 15 or 20 per cent. of income.

There is no specific law of tithing laid down in the New Testament, it is true. There is a principle of stewardship enjoined, however, which is wider and more far-reaching in its demands, for it includes all a man is and has. This would demand not the tithe, but ever so much more, *the all*, if necessary. Surely the believer in Jesus ought not to content himself with giving less than the Jews gave. His vantage ground is infinitely higher. And if this is so, then the church should do all in its power to help the individual member to discharge his duty 'to this grace also.' It is right that a believer should be baptized, and the church should provide for the orderly administration of baptism. It is right that a baptized believer should continue to remember his Lord in the observance of the Lord's Supper. For the observance of this sacred and precious duty the church should make proper provision. The same thing may be said as to the proper exercise of Christian stewardship.

As one has well said, "It is as much the duty of the church to provide its members with a system of finance as to provide a baptism or the Lord's table."

In every church there should be the most competent committee appointed whose duty it will be to care for the financial interests of the body. These need not necessarily be the deacons. There should be not only an estimate of the needs of the church for the ensuing year presented at the beginning of each year, but a definite plan for raising the funds. The plan will always consider the local circumstances. Every member should give something regularly—"as God hath prospered"—and this whether he is present at all the services or not, because the work of the church must go on even if he be absent. A good rule adopted by some churches is "Either a giver or a receiver." If a man is unable to give he should receive from his brethren. The Master said "The poor ye have with you always." A part of the worship of each Lord's day will be the gathering of the offering, and this should be done as reverently as the worship of song or prayer.

Missions and charity will have a recognized place in the work of the church—a *foremost* place. In the distribution of its gifts the work which the denomination has in hand will receive the same conscientious treatment as do the local needs. If a church can only gather enough money to keep its pastor and pay for fuel and light, etc., it is a grave question as to the right of such a church to be

There is no church that cannot do something for missions and the work of the denomination as a whole.

The fallacy still lurks in some minds, based upon a gross perversion of the old adage "Charity begins at home," that what is done to support missions to the heathen or to other destitute parts of our own land, is so much taken from the pastor's salary and other local expenses. This is not a fact. . . . The rule of giving does not work that way but the very reverse. The reason why there is so much barrenness in many of our churches, is because they are thinking so much about the running expenses of their own local church and nothing at all of the great work which the church has been commissioned to do. *There is a withholding which tends to poverty.* Let pastors see to it that their people are kept well-informed as to the work in which the denomination at least, is engaged, and also that every member of the church has the opportunity given him to aid in the work of extending the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and some of them will be surprised at the result. All this means patient endeavor. Sometimes one method will avail and sometimes another. In many cases a good plan is to have collectors appointed to solicit.

The work needs the help of all our members. oftentimes pastors are at their wits' ends to know how best to proceed. We need to pray much for our brethren, for a good many burdens are on them which sometimes are overlooked.

Baptist Convention.

The Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec met in annual session on the 15th inst at the First Baptist church of Montreal, Rev J. A. Gordon, pastor. There were a large number of delegates in attendance.

The retiring President, Aren McNee of Windsor, Ontario, was in the chair. Words of welcome were extended by Pastor Gordon and replied to by President McNee, after which the following officers were duly elected:—

Rev. J. L. Gilmour, President; R. D. Warren, Esq., 1st vice; Rev. J. E. Trotter, 2nd vice; Rev. P. K. Day-foot, Sec'y-Treas.

The address of the retiring President was then given, in which the condition of the Baptist body in the past was happily and forcibly contrasted with its present status. The Baptists of to-day had a recognized place among the Christian forces of the country.

The report on Education made reference to the University, the Ladies' College and the Woodstock College, all of which were reported as in a flourishing condition so far as regards the attendance and the efficiency of the instructors.

The report of the treasurer showed a surplus on current account of \$2523.39. The Forward Movement showed a debit balance of a little more than \$14,000, against which there are unpaid subscriptions of about \$8000. A bequest of \$5000 has been received and several scholarships and prizes have been founded. Chancellor Wallace has had leave of absence for a year granted to him for a much needed rest.

The Sunday School Committee reported an enrolment of 36,450 scholars with 4,472 teachers and officers. The total amount collected in the schools for missions and school purposes was \$21,287.17. There was reported a decrease in attendance but a gain in conversions and in offerings for missions. The report recommended the appointment of a General Superintendent, to study the conditions of the schools, etc. This gave rise to quite an animated discussion, when it was finally resolved to refer such an appointment to the three Boards. Home and Foreign Mission and Publication in conjunction with the Sunday School Committee.

The Hymnal Committees recommended for use in the churches of Ontario and Quebec, 'the Baptist church Hymnal' with supplement.

The report on North West and British Columbia missions showed a most hopeful condition of affairs both as regards education and church extension, opportunities for pushing the work were many, and the Convention was appealed to for continued help. When it is remembered that 28 years ago the first Baptist church was founded in Winnipeg and now in Manitoba and the North West there are 98 churches with 5,000 members, 12 of which are German and there are over 20 different nationalities to reach, the importance of this work is clearly seen.

The work in British Columbia has not made such rapid progress as in the Territories and Manitoba. They have 19 churches, but no denominational school. Superintendent McKwan made an appeal for a larger proportion of monies raised for work in the North West than had been given to that Province. A most animated discussion followed, after which the percentage was increased from 20 to 25 per cent. The editor of this jour-

nal being present expressed the sympathy of the brotherhood down by the sea in this western work.

Home Mission work in Ontario reported a deficit this year though this was not so large as in some previous years. It was said by one of the speakers on this topic that if the denomination went on this year as last there would be no deficit to report. Stirring addresses were given on these subjects by Revs. A. A. Cameron of Ottawa J. McEwan of Victoria, British Columbia, A. Vining, W. T. Stackhouse and C. J. Cameron.

There were reports from the Grand Ligne Missions, Church Edifice and Infirmary Ministers Board. That of Grand Ligne was especially interesting showing the large number of attendance and the increased facilities for work by the completion of this new wing. The Board is to be heartily congratulated in the success which thus attended their efforts.

The Education Bill now before the British House of Commons came up for discussion and a strong resolution on the subject was passed by a rising vote. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved, that the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec met in annual session in the city of Montreal expresses its interest in and sympathy with the Baptists and other Non-conformists of England and Wales in their opposition to the unjust Education Bill now before the British House of Commons which is a contradiction of those historic principles for which their and our fathers took joyfully the spoiling of their goods. We encourage them to stand firm in their resistance of a measure which is out of all harmony with the spirit of the age, and assure them of our heartiest endorsement."

Vigorous addresses were made on the above by such men as Revs. P. O. Parker, J. A. Gordon, H. P. Welton, E. J. Stobo, William Graham, Ira Smith and G. R. Roberts of the Canadian Baptist, and copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to Dr. Clifford of the Baptist Union of England and Wales; to Hon. A. J. Balfour, the British Prime Minister, and to the Press.

Another resolution passed protesting against money raised by general taxation being used for the support of denominational schools, hospitals and colleges.

The last day of the session was given to Foreign Missions. The report on this subject was full and comprehensive. The receipts for the year were large, amounting to more than \$36,000, but there is a large deficit of more than \$7,000. The work in India is in a healthy condition as also that in Bolivia. A larger number of missionaries than usual are home on furlough, and the expenses have been heavy.

There were 297 additions to the churches during the year. The net increase was 121. The present membership is 4363. The work in Bolivia is equally encouraging. The first Baptist church has been organized in that country with a membership of five. The door is wide open for direct evangelistic work. A new mission-house is under construction at Orura. At La Paz new mission headquarters are required and will cost \$10,000.

The schools number four, and the income from these have been sufficient to cover the salaries of five out of the eight missionaries.

Addresses of great power were given by Mr. Harry Pyrie of Toronto, who spoke of what he saw in India; by the Misses Murray and McLaurin and Dr. E. G. Smith.

Seven new missionaries are under appointment, four for India and three for Bolivia. On account of the lack of funds Mr. and Mrs. Reekie will not be able to go to Bolivia. The effort to limit the work of the Foreign Mission Board to an expenditure of a certain definite sum did not meet with the approval of the body.

The Convention closed its session and adjourned to Grande Ligne to the re-dedication of Feller Institute, an account of which will be given elsewhere.

The hospitality of the churches was all that could be desired. This could not well be otherwise with such an admirable host as pastor Gordon and the First Baptist church. The presiding officer discharged his duties well. The meetings were all deeply interesting. The sermons that were preached were helpful and the whole Convention was a decided success. We feel sure that a most excellent impression was left in the city as a whole. It pays in more ways than one to have a denominational rally in any community.

The Forward Movement.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I am writing you on Saturday morning, the 25th inst., by the last mail that will ensure the communication a place in the next issue of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

I am happy to report that the evidences of a widespread interest in the finish of the Forward Movement are abundant. The response to recent appeals has been splendid. The pledges made at Yarmouth are rapidly being redeemed. Many churches are being heard from in the matter of the special collection. Others who were in arrears on their original pledges are making encouraging efforts to meet their promises. And others still are supplementing their former gifts in a noble way. The prospects are excellent that we shall pass the winning post on time. Only let the same degree of interest and faithful effort be maintained for another week, and it is morally certain that the earnest hope of a multitude of people will be realized, and their faith rewarded.

Wolfville, Oct. 25th.

T. TROTTER.