

miles of their course, till they steal silently across the seaside sands, and are lost in the heavings of that mighty boom. Such are men's lives, some are mighty and cleave their way for centuries into the ocean of human influence; others steal forth silently beneath the shade. Yet, to God, one is known as well as the other. He knows how the little stream watered yonder garden, laved the roots of the shade trees, and quenched the thirst of the traveller. A cup of cold water shall not lose its reward.

Let us learn to work for God, and, whether we sow or reap, whether our influence be large or small, He will remember our work amidst the solemnities of that august harvest day. We may not be well known harvesters, but we can all be "other men," we can labour. Toronto, Can.

#### UNITY IN ESSENTIALS.

At a large party in a London drawing-room, a Christian gentleman was approached by a man who did not sympathize with Christianity, who, with sarcastic smile, said:

"I've been wondering how you Christians can expect us rational men to accept your doctrines, when you so ludicrously disagree among yourselves. I see here to-night English Churchmen, High, Broad and Low; a Roman Catholic, a member of the Greek Church, a Presbyterian, a Wesleyan, a Baptist, a Congregationalist, an Irvingite, and a Quaker. Where and what is truth?"

"If I can obtain our host's permission to make an experiment which has come into my thought," replied the gentleman, "you shall hear what I have to say to Pilate's question."

The permission was granted, and the gentleman, requesting silence, said to the guests:

"I appeal to you in the cause of our common Christianity, and I solemnly call upon those who believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the Son of Mary, that he came into the world, was made flesh, was crucified to save sinners, that he rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, ever liveth to make intercession for us, and will come again at the end of the world to judge the quick and the dead. I ask you to kneel and repeat with me the prayer which he has taught us."

All knelt but one, and thus gave evidence of a real unity of faith and hope and charity among Christians, however they may be divided and scattered by human creeds and controversies.

#### LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

By Rev. James Ross, D.D., London.

Drink Wine.—At the close of a festive meal the entertainment was usually turned into a symposium, or drinking party. The wine, which was often eleven or twelve years old and very strong, was sweetened with honey and mixed with water, never less than half and half, and very old Maronean wine, with twenty times its own weight of water. A master of the feast was elected by casting dice, whose commands all had to obey, and who regulated the manner of drinking and proposed the amusements. The wine was mixed in a large vessel, and poured into goblets which varied in size. Socrates emptied one which held nearly four pints. When the goblets were first filled, a small portion was poured out of each on the floor as a libation to "the good spirit," and this was accompanied by the singing of the psalm and the music of flutes. It was to this ceremony often repeated during the feast, that the Christians objected. The guests drank to one another, to absent friends, to the emperor and the army. If the toast was a lady, the number of glasses drunk consecutively must equal the letters of her name. Witty conversation, games of hazard, music, and professional dancers were among the means used to entertain the guests.

#### REV. ROBERT H. WARDEN, D.D.

By Rev. W. G. Wallace, D.D.

When, on the early Sabbath morning of November 26th, 1905, the soul of Robert Harvey Warden took its flight, it seemed as if a great tree of the forest had fallen. He was not old in years, not having yet reached his sixty-fifth birthday, but he had come to occupy such a prominent place in the life of the church and the nation that his removal seemed nothing short of a public calamity.

Of the many valuable gifts we have received from the old land, the outstanding leader, to whom the special Topic of this month is devoted, was not the least. Born in Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Scotland, in 1841, he received his early education in Madras College, St. Andrews. Still in his youth, he turned his face towards Canada, and entered on a career which, from start to finish, was closely identified with Canadian life and the Canadian church. Soon abandoning the study of law for the ministry, he entered Knox College, Toronto, in 1863, and graduated there from three years later. Shortly afterwards he was called to Bothwell, Ontario, where he rendered eight years of devoted and effective service. Already the church began to recognize in him a man of exceptional gifts, and in 1874 called him to wider fields of usefulness, first in connection with the building fund of Knox College, the new college buildings being then in progress of erection, and afterwards as Agent of the Board of French Evangelization. He became also Treasurer of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The college finances were ably administered, and he threw himself with enthusiasm into the promotion of the scheme of French Evangelization, which contemplates the giving of the Gospel in its freeness and purity to our French-Canadian fellow-citizens.

There are two schemes of our Canadian Church with which, especially, however, the name of Dr. Warden will ever be associated,—Home Missions and Augmentation, the former having to do with a mission cause in its earlier stages, the latter helping it at a critical time in its history to self-support. To the great home missionary undertakings of our church he was early apprenticed. Whilst in his first and only pastoral charge, he was accustomed to visit neighboring congregations to present the claims of Home Missions. After serving for several years as Secretary of the H. M. Committee, he became, on the death of Rev. Dr. Cochrane, in 1886, its Convener, a position which he held until his death, and which he filled with far-seeing statesmanship and singular success. It was during this period that the great development of the West and of New Ontario took place and under Dr. Warden's guidance the church awoke to its privilege and opportunity, and its home missionary work received an impetus which has given the Presbyterian Church in Canada a place second to none.

On the death of Rev. Dr. Reid, Dr. Warden was appointed by the Assembly of 1896, General Agent and Treasurer of the church. The office was becoming, in view of the expanding church, one of increasing responsibility, and the church was wisely guided in calling to it a man of such strong personality, commanding gifts and devoted spirit. Legal, financial, administrative questions were all involved; the work was varied and comprehensive enough to require the services of such a well-trained and far-seeing man. Many a one, who saw Dr. Warden only as Assembly Clerk, must have been struck by his wide and intimate grasp of affairs.

It was the privilege of the writer to serve, under Dr. Warden's Convenership, as Secretary of the Century Fund Com-

mittee of the church, and he feels free to express his belief that the Century Fund Scheme would probably not have been inaugurated, certainly would not have issued so successfully, had it not been for Dr. Warden's earnest advocacy and wise direction. The proposal was a bold one, \$1,000,000 as a thank-offering at the beginning of the new century—\$400,000 of the amount to be for the extinction of local church debts, and \$600,000 as a Common Fund to aid the great Missionary and other Schemes of the church. Those who listened to his burning appeal at the Hamilton Assembly of 1899, at which the Scheme was so enthusiastically launched—perhaps the greatest speech Dr. Warden ever made,—did not once dream that up to the very eve of the Assembly he hesitated. The difficulties in the way were so tremendous, opinion seemed thus far so divided and sympathy so half-hearted, failure would be so irreparable,—no wonder he hesitated. But when once he had reached a decision there was no turning back; he made this the effort of his life, and gave himself with such abandon to the perfecting and prosecuting of the scheme as to command forever the loyal admiration of those who served with him.

When the subscriptions were finally closed it was found that in addition to the \$600,000 for the Common Fund, a round million had been raised for debts on church buildings; and the church had learned the blessedness of devising liberal things. The Century Fund, of which Dr. Warden was the organizing head, marked an era in our church's history.

One wishes that space would permit to speak of Dr. Warden's rare combination of far-sightedness and capacity for detail, his power of detachment, his business skill, his ability to help rich men to grasp the fact of the stewardship of money. But no sketch of him is complete that does not emphasize his faith and hope. The place he occupied as Agent and Treasurer of the church had its special difficulties. To live day by day in the world of finance, to have to do constantly with the raising and expending of money and with the investment of funds, carries with it peculiar peril. The spiritual sense is in danger of being dimmed, perhaps lost. Dr. Warden won faith's chiefest victory. From amid the surroundings that were so apt to deaden, he got him up to the mount of vision, and his prophecy became enthusiastic with hope. He was a man of affairs, keen, alert, capable; but, better still, he retained a tender spirit, and never lost his abiding faith in his Master, nor his unconquerable hope in the church's ultimate triumph.

#### BIBLE READINGS.

M.—Early in the vineyard, Matt. 20: 1-16. T.—The tribute of the wilderness, Isaiah ch. 35. W.—The promised victory, Mic. 4: 1-7. T.—Our first duty, Matt. 6: 24-34. F.—Giving and getting, Luke 6: 27-38. S.—Bringing in the sheaves, Ps. 126. Sunday Topic—A Leader in an Expanding Church, 1 Chron. 29: 1-6

#### PRAYER.

O God, we are not worthy to worship Thee. Deepen this conviction in our hearts, and move us all the more to long for the worthiness prepared for us through the merits and atonement of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May grace abound to enable us to deny self, take up our cross daily and follow the Master. Fill our hearts with thy peace so that whatever of doubt or temptation may assail us, or sorrow overwhelm us, or peril threaten us, we may abide in fellowship with Thee. Make clear to us the place Thou wouldst have us fill and the work Thou wouldst have us do, and may we ever be both content and faithful until Thou dost bring us home. Hear, accept and bless us for Thy name's sake. Amen.

\*Y. P. S. Topic for Nov. 24; A Leader in an Expanding Church: Rev. Robert H. Warden, D.D., 1 Chron. 29: 1-6.