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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor.

Ottawa, Wednesday, Jan. 22nd, 1902.

We hear much in these days of the mission of the Old Testament prophet as a preacher of truth and righteousness, and as a witness for God to the men of his day. Their ex- ample in this respect is presented for imi- tation and pressed upon the preachers of our own time. This sentence from George Adam Smith's recent work on "Modern Criticism and the Preaching of the Old Testament" is well worth the quoting and preachers thinking over. "The ultimate foun- tain of the prophetic preaching is the passion to win men. This is the secret both of the pathos and the splendour of its style. To the prophets, preaching was no mere display, but a sore battle with the hard hearts of their contemporaries, in which the messenger of the Lord worked with the pty of his weak- ness upon him, at a supreme cost to himself and conscious that he must summon to his desperate task every resource of feeling and of Art."

The friends of Principal Grant in every part of the Dominion will hail with pleasure his reappearance in the public arena. His address lately, of an hour's length to the students of Queen's College and other friends, gathered in Convocation Hall, clearly shows that, if the Principal's abounding physical strength and vigor have suffered by his late prolonged and dangerous illness, his mental strength, activity and versatility are in no respect abated. The autobiograph- ical notes in his address have a great personal interest. His reference to Con- federation, to present day questions arising out of it, to educational and ecclesiastical matters, are fresh and suggestive. Long may the Principal, who is Canadian and British to his heart's core, be spared to en- thusiase others with his own feelings in this respect; and to see all his plans and hopes for his country, for his Church and his be- loved Queen's University in the full and sure course of happy and complete fulfilment.

MANNER.

This is a thing not easy to define, but that manner is of importance in many ways is what will at once be admitted. All know what is meant by a pleasing or ungracious manner, by a frank or reserved manner, by an awkward, ungainly or courteous manner, by a cold or genial manner, and there we leave it. We can only say that, manner in every case depends upon a certain, subtle, personal quality which eludes definition, or perhaps description, but by which it is de- termined. It may be traceable to natural temperament, to qualities of heart, to home- training, to association, to degree of culture, to one's experience in life or many other causes. Everyone takes cognizance of man- ner. The first thing which strikes one, and by which an impression is made upon us in meeting with a stranger, is his manner. We cannot at once pronounce upon charac- ter, but we are immediately impressed by and judge of manner. First impressions of men to which many attach so much im- portance, are determined by manner. If first impressions and opinions formed in this way are unfavourable, they can often only be overcome by long acquaintance. So manner often obscures merit, or may give a place in our estimation which there is no merit to warrant.

Manner, if not of the first importance, is at least of great importance in every walk of life. Among all the complexities and com- plications of life to what extent mutual in- tercourse is made easy and pleasant or the reverse, depends upon manner. In count- less cases difficulties feared at once disappear before a frank, straight forward, courteous manner, and for the want of this, plenty and obstinate difficulties that need never have arisen are created. The initial, and often the permanent success or failure of the busi- ness or professional man is determined by his manner. Other things being equal, as to business or professional ability, the man with the happy, agreeable manner is certain to succeed, in the ordinary sense of the word, better than the one whose manner is reserv- ed, or cold, or repellant. Even if things are unequal as regards knowledge, ability, or skill, a lack in these respects is often more than counterbalanced by a manner generally acceptable or attractive. The business man with a good or prepossessing manner, will be sure to keep or gain customers where one whose manner is different will lose them. And so in the same way will the standing, and influence of the professional man be affected.

How far should our appreciation of, and feeling toward, say a christian minister, be influenced by his manner being agreeable to us or the reverse? This suggests the ques- tion what is the real purpose or object for which one man stands toward another in the relation of a christian minister? It is to serve us wisely, truly and faithfully as a re- ligious teacher, guide and friend, and be an example of christian conduct in life. So many are either well or ill affected toward their minister by his manner only or chiefly, and the good they can receive from his min- istrations depends so largely upon this, that the question is well worth seriously weighing, "how far should I allow my minister's man-

ner to influence my estimate of time and relation toward him?" Manner is certainly in this matter, if important, yet quite sec- ondary. It does not make a man really a better christian minister though it is what the popularity of many a one largely rests upon, that he has "his joke," his "happy word," his "smile" ready for everyone. Be- hind the bluntest manner, may be the truest piety, christian wisdom and faithfulness, and there may beat the warmest heart, and the blandest manner may be only the veneer over the shallowest feeling, levity of charac- ter and want of real earnestness. If there is true piety, faithfulness and kindness of heart, and christian wisdom and earnestness in teaching, then surely the matter of man- ner, so secondary, should detract from a just appreciation of a christian minister or interfere with our benefit by his ministra- tions. The manner that repels one may at- tract another, and should, in this relation, be a matter of forbearance, and be allowed to obscure character and interfere with or mil- litate against those supremely important ob- jects for which one man stands toward his fellowmen in the relation of a christian minister.

MISSION FUNDS.

As Missionary Committees are sometimes at a loss to know the exact proportion re- quired by the different schemes, this table has been prepared—at a glance it will be seen how each \$100 raised should be divid- ed, so as to meet the requirements of the various funds. The whole work of the church is one, and it is most desirable that instead of one scheme receiving a super- abundance, and the others too little, the money be so divided that each scheme may receive its due share, and the obligations of the Church, as a whole, duly met. It will be observed from the table, that the average contribution required, this year, is only \$1.75 per communicant, for all of the schemes. Of course, many congregations will greatly exceed this average. Where the schemes of the church are duly presented to congrega- tions and the opportunity given them to contribute systematically for their further- ance, there should be no difficulty in reach- ing this average in almost every congregation.

The 1st column shows the amount requir- ed for each scheme, the 2nd, the rate per communicant, and the 3rd, the amount each scheme should receive of every \$100 to be distributed.

	Amount required, per Com.	Average	Proportion of \$100.
Home Mission	\$97,500	.57	\$32.57
Augmentation	30,000	.20	11.43
*Foreign Mission	70,000	.42	24.00
Fr. Evangelization	35,000	.17	9.72
Knox College	12,000	.09	5.14
Queen's "	5,500	.04	2.30
Montreal "	5,000	.04	2.28
Manitoba "	3,000	.02	1.14
Widows & Orphans	13,000	.08	4.57
Aged & In. Min.	13,000	.08	4.57
Assembly Fund	7,000	.04	2.28
	\$291,000	\$1.75	\$100.00

* This does not include the W.F.M.S.

The year terminates on Friday the 28th of February, and the books close promptly, so that all moneys should be forwarded so as to reach the office in Toronto on or before the evening of that day. R.H.W.

Toronto 18th Jan. 1902.