

every fortnight for endless Ecclesiastical Schemes or other such objects, from which we are delivered. Then, we have still a debt upon the Church which might as well be paid as not. True, it is very insignificant compared with the wealth represented among us—perhaps if it had been larger more serious effort would have been provoked to get rid of it. I am not, however, going to be betrayed into interference with this or any other Church-debt. I hold very strongly that it is not a Clergyman's duty to meddle, any more than he cannot avoid, with such questions; and I would not insult those, whose province it is to look after the finances of the Church and who merit the thanks of the Congregation for their careful administration of these, by even proposing to do what, as laymen, they can do much better than any minister in the way of getting this incumbrance cleared off. My mission has most to do with "spiritual things," as little as may be with "carnal things."

But, in this connection, I do feel constrained to allude to one matter which has long been giving me anxious thought. There must be many of us who have noticed that the inside walls and roof of the Church are painfully in need of complete renovation. If any one will take the trouble to go near and touch them, they will be convinced that they are in a condition utterly unworthy of any Congregation, least of all one in the position of ours. We are all, very properly, particular about our homes, not allowing the accumulations of years' dust to engrain themselves on either wall or roof; and it is a sacred law of both health and morals, as well for the Church or house as for the body, that "cleanliness is next to godliness." Should we be any more fastidious about our own dwellings than about that of the great Father of all? I will not conceal that I have an irrepressible desire to have this most needful work, and the additional ornamentation of fresco-painting, done in the very best possible style of perfection; and I am persuaded that, even looking at it in a commercial light, it would pay to so do it. If only we are in earnest there can be no difficulty in defraying the cost of so manifest an improvement, which, in no case, could exceed \$1000 or \$1500. I may be met by those, if any there are, who are against all such expenditures, with a reminder about the debt. But, independently of the smallness of that burden, I submit that it would be very unreasonable if everything in the shape of comfort in worshipping God and attraction to others to come and join our Church is to stand until it is removed. Do we never beautify houses with mortgages upon them until these are removed? It will be a bitter disappointment to me if what I have now put so strongly bears no fruit, or action upon it be delayed. It could be so well done in summer, and, if only two or three to whom God has given abundant means would take it up, it is as good as done.

2. I am anxious to impress upon all the Parishioners of St. Andrew's Church, which can be done in a very few words, the power which they have in their hands to strengthen "our own line of things." The Rev. Charles Spurgeon was once asked 'how he managed to bring together under his ministry such a host of people?' The answer he gave is most instructive to us. Turning to his questioner, he replied, 'I did not bring these people—my Congregation made my Congregation.' I cannot tell how many I have met who informed me either that they would have come to our Church or, having come for a Sunday or two, would have settled down in it, if any one who knew them or was more frank than most had only gone a little out of their way to induce or encourage them to cast in their lot with us. I would deplore and deprecate the kind of "recruiting" resorted to by some too ardent people who make it their business to angle for those who live at some distance from, or are shaky in their attachment to, their Churches. I was not long in Montreal before a now venerable Clergyman assured me 'that I would find Ecclesiastical sheep-stealing a very common sin.' I scarcely know whether, at the moment, he meant to put me on or off my guard, but I have never lost sight of his assertion, and I should be sorry indeed if any human being was ever brought to St. Andrew's Church as the result of any such device. My remarks under this head, about what our Congregation can do to increase its numbers, only apply to those who have recently come to reside in the City or have no fixed Church-home. Of the latter class, even among well-to-do Christians, there are more than any of us imagine.

3. I would not be faithful in speaking of our future, and our duty as a Congregation, if I did not touch upon a subject, which I approach with some little reluctance. I have never, from the