

As will be seen by the "State of the Funds" the F. M. Fund calls for earnest united effort, that at the close of the financial year in the first of May, there may be no adverse balance.

The first duty of every one with regard to Foreign Mission work is to support the regular F. M. Fund. This duty is sometimes neglected. A special object in connection with some particular field is ably presented, sympathy and interest is called forth, large sums are given and pledged, and then when the collection for Foreign Mission comes round, the thought of the heart sometimes is, I have already given in connection with this mission, I pray thee have me excused, or, I gave to a special purpose, I am not able to do so much for the Fund.

As Christians banded together in the Presbyterian Church we have from the Maritime Provinces sent forth three missionaries and their wives to the South Seas, we have sent four missionaries and their wives to Trinidad. Here are seven mission families that we have asked to leave their homes and labor for us among the heathen, promising that we will support them as they do our work there. Who has sent these people forth? Who has promised to support them? The whole Church through her representatives has done it. As the yearly or half yearly payments come due they must be sent. The mission families that we have sent out have no other means of living. Who is responsible for sending it? The whole church. It is a responsibility that we have taken upon us. A debt we justly owe. There is no doubt that if the good people of our Church who are almost always faithful to duty and to Christ when a cause is fairly presented, were to see more clearly the responsibility in this matter, as well as in other departments of Church work, there would be enough and to spare.

The church has appointed a few men to take charge of this matter. These

are called the "Committee," or "Board," of Foreign Missions. The church has said to them, take charge of our Mission work, engage and pay missionaries for us, and we will supply you with means. The half yearly or yearly payments come round. The Board has not money to meet its engagements. It says to the church "you are not sending quite enough to meet the demands upon us. And there sometimes comes in effect the answer. 'We have given to some objects of our own choosing and have therefore done our part.'" This is plainly unfair. It puts the Board in a position of responsibility, promising them the means to meet that responsibility, then gives the means in some other way, leaving the Board to borrow money to meet its engagements as best it can.

The first question with every member of our church when asked for help for any special object in the Mission Field, should be,—Are our engagements fulfilled to which we are pledged? Are the Missionaries paid? Has the Foreign Mission Fund enough money to pay them? Have I done my part in supporting that fund, which I, as a member of the church, have already promised to sustain. Let not those questions be asked as an excuse for doing nothing for the special object presented, but in order that when the heart is prompted to give, the gift may go in the right direction. The regular Fund has the first and strongest claim in all circumstances because we are pledged to it. Specialities come asking help as a favor. This comes reminding us that it is a work which we have taken up and promised to sustain.

Those of us who have the charge of Sabbath Schools and the management of the childrens gifts to missions should not forget that the children of the Church have already undertaken a part of the support of the Dayspring, and the Mission Schools. The contributions for these objects are not quite equal to th