

MISSIONARY FINANCES.

BY BISHOP NEWMAN.

WE need a simple, all-pervading financial system whereby every member will lay aside two cents "upon the first day of the week" for the conversion of the world, and call upon 20,000 holy women to consecrate themselves to the cause of missions, to collect these funds, and remit through the pastor to the treasurer quarterly. On every charge in the Connexion there is some holy woman who would thus gladly join the ranks of the missionaries of the Cross. Let the rich continue to give their thousands; let us have the monthly concert of prayer and the grand missionary Sabbath; but let us see to it that each member of the Church makes annual contribution. I know one presiding elder who is asking from each church member a postage-stamp a week for Christ. Wesley looked after the English penny; we have neglected the dimes that make the dollar. The givers are too few. If a father with ten in his family can give only a dollar, let him have the generous humility to allow each one to give a dime.

We must deluge the Church with missionary intelligence. Let in the light, give the people pictures and figures and facts. There is no reading more thrillingly interesting than intelligence about the customs, habits, and countries where our missionaries are living. Rely upon it, you can stir the great Church of our choice by these missives from afar.

The preacher in charge who gets the most money for all the authorized collections is the best paid man in the Connexion; while he who worries about his salary and fears that he will fall short if he is active for missions, does fall short, and he should. Look at the facts. Study the statistics. He who looks after God's cause God looks after him. Oh, for faith, for trust, for courage! "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." I sympathize with a preacher who has a family to provide for and educate in his solicitude for his salary; but his solicitude may be his poverty, while interest, burning, shining interest, for the universal cause of God will be riches to him. Our weakness is, we have no financial system. As a Church, we are thrifty. Many of our people are rich. We have the means to take the world for Christ. Were each pastor, at the beginning of each Conference year, to estimate how much is needed for all objects, and apportion the sum, according to ability, among all the members of the church and congregation, and then assign to each official member persons from whom the apportionment is to be collected, two results would follow: the official members would have a chance to do something officially for the Church, and there would be no lack for any lawful object. Activity in our official boards would be an increase in the revenues of the Church. Our people are willing to give, and will give largely, when invited in the name of Christ. Oh, for a divine baptism of sympathy with Jesus for the conquest of this world in His glorious name!

A FRIEND should bear his friend's infirmities.

—*Julius Cæsar*, iv. 3.