

Work of the Board of Management.

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be true religious spirit and sentiment in the midst of dirty and uncomfortable surroundings in a church for instance not properly cleaned and dusted, and above all, poorly heated and ventilated. How often has a carefully and prayerfully prepared sermon been spoiled on account of a cold, smoky church? To this end, none but the best of janitors should be employed. In this connection I might add that some of our churches are fortunate enough to have enlisted the valuable co-operation of an auxiliary committee from the Ladies Aid to assist the Property Committee. Such churches are free of dust and dirt. As part of the duties of the Property committee, I would mention the proper care of the manse, where such is owned or provided by the congregation. Make your pastor and his family as comfortable as you can. He needs, and will appreciate, all the Christian attention you can show him. Last, but not least, come the ushers. Great good or great harm can be done by this committee. I need not enlarge on this point. We all know the difference in the impression left upon us, as strangers, in visiting different churches. In one, we feel the warmth of true Christian fellowship in the welcome extended to us. In another, we feel as though we had come into contact with a species of religious iceberg. The ushers should be in their places well in advance of the hour of opening, and meet and greet the members of their own congregation as well as strangers. As a denomination, we are said to be somewhat cold, reserved and self-contained, and I'm afraid there's a good deal of truth in the charge. There is a gushy fussy manner that is only on the surface, skin deep so to speak, and with that I have no sympathy. Presbyterians go a trifle to the other extreme. We are a people of solid sentiment. We have a lot of warmth in our make up, but don't you think that it would do us all good if we got it a bit nearer the surface? I do. The ushers have a grand chance to improve us in this direction.

Now having dealt with some important sub-committees of the Board and their duties, let me specially refer to and emphasize the importance of certain branches of the Board's work. Everything should be conducted in a thoroughly up-to-date, business like manner. Stated meetings should be held. Every member adherent and regular worshipper should be seen at the opening of the church year and their pledge secured for a definite weekly contribution. See that everyone, young and old, takes part in this matter of giving. We don't pay attention enough to the small givings. The late Archbishop Clery was once asked by two Protestant clergymen who called upon His Grace at the Cathedral, how is it that you secure so much more money from your people as a whole than the Protestants? Said he the secret is that we look after the 100. pieces.

The books of the treasurer should be correctly kept, and by their completeness and exactness afford a thoroughly detailed record of the financial affairs of the church. All payments should be represented by voucher and the account kept so regularly posted as to be ready for in-

formation or examination at any time.

As to the best means of approaching a congregation, for sustentation, that must be decided largely, by local conditions. Where the people have been educated up to the proper standard, a circular letter following an earnest Christian appeal from the pulpit, will suffice. Where such a condition does not exist, it will be necessary for the executive, assisted by the finance committee, to personally interview the congregation. It pays to devote attention to these matters. In secular affairs, eternal vigilance is the price of success, and we should be just as vigilant in the Lord's work. This vigilance and diligence will attain what ought to be the goal of every board of management, viz., closing the church year with a balance on the right side. Nothing gives such an enthusiastic temper to an annual meeting and such inspiration to a congregation for renewed effort as to have submitted the Treasurer's report showing a balance to the good. No matter if it is only a few dollars, so long as it is a surplus and not a deficit. Every board of management should resolve to end the year with a credit balance.

Permit me to say a few words about the great encouragement that Boards of Management will receive from the cheerful support and cordial co-operation of the Ladies Aid and Young Peoples Societies. This valuable help will be secured if the proper Christian spirit prevails the management committee, and for that matter if this spirit characterizes one portion of the membership, it will generally characterize the entire congregation. In such churches, the money given to the minister is not contributed in a grudging, niggardly spirit as a salary, but in true Christian liberality of soul as a stipend, a support, and increased from time to time as the Lord shall have prospered them. In such churches, everyone lends a hand. This is only as it ought to be. The idea of co-operation or mutual assistance run like a golden thread throughout the entire fabric of Holy Scripture. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." In no place so much as in the church work should we be mutually helpful to each other. Are we not united by the bonds of true Christian fellowship? If we only realized this fully, what united bands of powerful Christian workers we would be? Pastors and Elders and Managers, Ladies Aid, Young Peoples Society and Sabbath School, members and adherents, all striking hands in the common work for the Master. Let us realize that there is individual responsibility resting upon each one of us. It is ours to make our impress on the age in which we live with the indelible stamp of true religious life. Let us see to it, therefore, that our characters and labors be such as that we shall send forth to the most distant posterity a legacy of glorious deeds, a record of unsullied purity. Christian friends as we are assembled at this time as a court of our Church, let us take a threefold glance at our beloved denomination. First a backward look by way of refreshing our minds in the knowledge of the grand things that our Church has been permitted to accomplish by its Divine head all down the years of its active and eventful history. Secondly, a present look that we may realize the magnitude of the work that we have presently in

hand, and lastly a prospective look to show us the immense responsibilities in store for our Church in the long years of the future. From this threefold glance let us catch a fresh inspiration for the better discharge of all our duties as Christian workers, let us press gladly forward in our labors, cheerfully toiling in earth's vineyard, scattering seeds of kindness for the great reaping by and by.

My friends, the grandest epitaph that can be written to any man is this "he was faithful." May we as laborers for Christ fill up the full measure of our days with usefulness, and thus show by our lives that we understand these lines of one of our sweetest singers:

We live in deeds not words,
In thoughts not breaths,
In feelings not in figures on a dial;
We should count time by heart throbs,
He most lives who thinks most,
Feels the noblest acts the best.

The Queen, God Bless Her.

In the "Universal Magazine" for April appears a well-written tribute of the Queen by Miss Marie Corelli. Dealing with her Majesty's glorious reign Miss Corelli writes—"It is difficult to grasp the idea of any more perfect monarch's reign than that of our beloved Queen and Empress; it is well-nigh impossible to imagine a more magnificent Empire than our own, over which this noblest, purest, and best of women holds her dominion. All the great kingdoms of ancient days fade into insignificance beside the grandeur, the progress the steadfast making for Truth, Justice, and Freedom which pre-eminently distinguished the British rule—and the power, the brute force, the barbaric ostentation of conquest and egotism of the Roman Caesars vanish like a mist of the marshes when confronted and compared with the one clear light of unsullied Goodness in the heart of our 'Mother of nations'—the simple woman who, by pure love and faith, has done more than countless legions of fighting men could ever do for the glory of the country, has fulfilled a far higher destiny and won a far greater fame than any conqueror who ever ruled by fear. Victoria whose name is Victory, is, and will be, for all time unique as the monarch Always Victorious! She knows nothing of defeat. Victories are hers by sea and by land—victories, not only over territory and peoples, but over barbarous systems of slavery, superstition, and prejudice; victories of enlightenment and civilization; victories in science, in discovery, in learning, in education, and national advancement; these cluster around her throne and adorn it more brilliantly than the most priceless jewels can adorn her Imperial Crown."

Do not allow the catechism to be overlooked. Teach it to your children. Have them commit to memory. Is it too theological and too difficult for them to understand? Still have it laid up in their minds, and in later years they will see the meaning and draw strength from its great doctrines. We are thankful now that our parents required us to commit it. We cannot have too much truth laid up as treasure for the later days of life