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St. James' Church, Montreal.

St. James' Methodist Church, Montreal, is seriously embarrassed. Indeed, that is altogether too mild a description of the state of affairs. It is in imminent financial peril, and unless the whole Church comes to the rescue this fine property will pass out of our hands.

Just why the Church is in such a condition is too long a story to tell here, but the fact is before us, and the question that confronts us, "What shall be done?" An appeal, authorized by the General Conference, is now being made throughout all our work. Let the response be generous and prompt. If the

church is saved it will need the combined efforts of all the churches, and even the small contributions must be looked after.

We should remember that this magnificent building, none too fine for the place it occupies, belongs to us all and not merely to the local trustees. If the Methodist Church allows our cause in this important centre to be swamped by debt, we will never again dare mention our connexionism. This is not in any sense an advertisement, and we are making this appeal unsolicited. The cuts of the building have been made expressly for this paper, and at our own expense. We want our readers to see that St. James is worth saving.

Helping the Pastor.

HOW THE ORDINARY HEARER MAY HELP.

It has been said that "no man can be any richer than his wife will let him." Whether this be true or not, it certainly is a fact that no minister can be any more successful than his congregation will let him. The progress that is made will depend very largely upon the hearty co-operation of the people. It may seem a little strange, but it is nevertheless a certainty, that the congregation have much to do in making the sermon effective. There are many ways in which they may help the pastor to preach:

1. *Help by being present.* Nothing has such a depressing effect upon a preacher as empty pews, especially if they happen to be immediately in front of him. The average hearer can have no idea of how much his simple presence in the pew encourages his pastor, particularly if the day is wet or stormy. If this were understood people would make a greater effort to get out.

2. *Be on time.* Punctuality may be one of the minor moralities, but it is

intensely bored. Such persons are a hundred-fold worse than the sleepers in their chilling effect upon the pastor. It is sometimes said of such a hearer, "O, that is his way of listening, but he hears every word that is said." It is a very poor way, and one that should be avoided.

5. Pray for the pastor before leaving home, on the way to church, and during the service. On the road home avoid criticism, but talk over the subject of the sermon with others and emphasize good points.

6. When the sermon strengthens and helps you, do not forget to tell the minister that his words have been a blessing to you. He hears enough fault-finding; let his heart be cheered by words of encouragement.

"Two or Three."

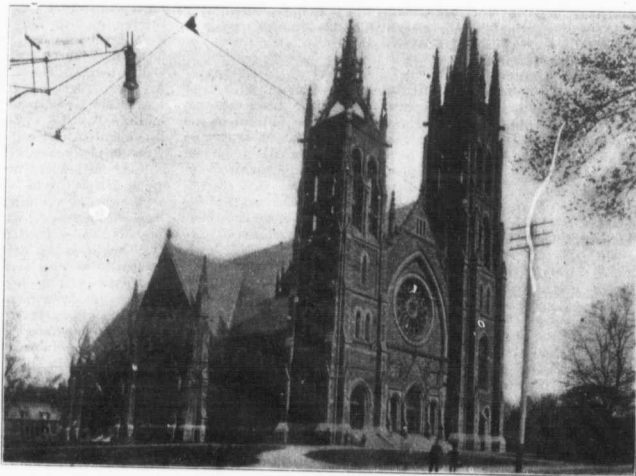
When there are only a few persons present, is it worth while to hold a meeting? is a question which has often perplexed League presidents and pastors not a little. There is a very strong temptation to undervalue the importance of a small

audience, but we believe it is always best to hold the meeting that has been announced, no matter how few may be present.

Dr. Buckley, editor of the *New York Christian Advocate*, in a personal interview, told us that he once preached in Detroit to an audience of three men, on account of a great storm. Some years after, one of these men, meeting the doctor, said, "Do you remember preaching in Detroit to three

men?" "Yes," replied Dr. Buckley, "I recollect it perfectly." "Well," continued the gentleman, "I have heard you frequently, but never knew you to be so interesting or so eloquent as on that Sunday morning." It is a mark of true greatness to exalt an ordinary occasion and determine to do one's best.

It is related that Bishop Randall was announced to preach in an Eastern church on behalf of his missionary work in Colorado. The evening came and proved dreadfully stormy. Only six persons appeared. For a moment the good Bishop hesitated. Finally he concluded that it was his duty to carry out his appointment; the question of congregation was none of his business. Accord-



ST. JAMES' METHODIST CHURCH, MONTREAL.

nevertheless important. A celebrated man once said, "It is part of my religion not to disturb other people's religion." It is always a satisfaction to the preacher in coming into the pulpit to find the people "all present before God."

3. *Listen as did Lydia of old, who heard the truth with "her heart open wide."* Let the ears and eyes be open also. It is a shame to sleep in church. The snoozing pewholder is a damper on the preacher's enthusiasm.

4. *Put yourself in a listening attitude.* There are hearers in almost every congregation who assume a lazy and careless position, fasten their eyes on the floor, and whose whole appearance leads one to conclude that they feel themselves