

this year to keep the fund up to the mark. It is useless to say if every one gave it would require but little, there are many who do not give—then do you give what you can and you will reap a rich reward.

The Late Premier.

The past week will be remembered in the annals of the country by the tragic, unexpected death of Canada's able premier, Sir John Thompson. The country was not prepared for the shock and although a few intimate friends knew that his health was in a precarious state even they did not suppose the end to be so near. His mission to Europe was two-fold, public business in London and including taking the oath as a member of the Privy Council, and a visit to Paris to consult eminent physicians. The result of the consultation was not cheering and he was hastening back to Canada for complete rest. He had just been sworn in to the Privy Council and had sat down to luncheon at Windsor Castle when he was cut down.

His death removes one of the ablest men who ever held high office in Canada, from the scene. His career was a striking illustration of merit succeeding against difficulties. He had few early advantages to begin with except good habits, method, unfailing industry and great powers of application—certainly most useful endowments, but within the reach of the average young man—but deceased used them well. What he had to do he did honestly, thoroughly, and to the utmost of his ability. Consequently he grew in experience and became useful. He mounted the ladder step by step in public life, from being an alderman of Halifax to a seat in the legislature, to be leader of his party, to be a distinguished advocate and judge and finally to be prime minister. There is certainly a lesson to be learned from his career. With the wisdom or otherwise of his general policy as prime minister a religious journal has little to do, but even his opponents own to his ability, his statesmanship, breadth of view, and creditable personal record. His force of character was much felt and his personality was the power which gave the public confidence to the administration of which he was the head. The loss of such a man will be great. No matter what party loses an able man, the loss is the country's and that of Sir John Thompson will be felt all the more that there are not many men of outstanding ability now at the head of affairs.

Hymnal Tunes.

The Tunes Committee announce that they will be pleased to consider the suggestions which "Presbyterian" furnishes in his letter which appeared in our last issue. In answer to the invitation that appeared in the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW Rev. Alex. McMillan Secretary of the Tunes Sub Committee received suggestions from such remote points as Halifax and Vancouver and these were carefully considered in going over the first part of the Hymnal portion of the new Book of Praise. Mr. McMillan and other members are in communication with conducting of Psalmody, and all suggestions that reach the Committee before it meets on 28th of next month, to review the remainder of the hymns and the selections from the Psalms will be welcomed and used by the Committee. Many of the old standard long, short and common metre tunes will appear in the new Hymnal portion, and where it can be done the original harmonies restored. The Tunes Committee represents

the city, town and country congregations; the wants of the ordinary congregations are kept steadily in view and the sympathetic co-operation of all interested is desired. It will be thus seen that the Committee is accessible to all interested and if advantage be not promptly taken of this open attitude no after blame will attach to the Committee.

Foreign Missions.

Christmas has come and in a few days we shall all be reviewing the year. In Foreign Mission work there has been steady progress, notwithstanding the unusual amount of interruption through sickness and the Eastern war. But the state of the funds is not hopeful and that is not a pleasant reflection at this season which reminds us of His Advent, who by so doing became poor that we might be rich. It is however encouraging to find that there is prevalent a feeling of humiliation and distress on account of this state of affairs. The ladies of the W.F.M.S. have set apart a special season for prayer in behalf of the *general* work—not their own department in particular. Our honored missionary Rev. J. Frazer Smith, M. D. now at home on account of sickness, has issued a very appropriate circular letter, especially addressed to the ministers of the Church, asking that a few minutes at noon of each of the first eight days of the year be set apart for waiting on the Lord that congregations may be moved in the light of Mal. iv : 8-12. He also clearly indicates the possibilities of the principle of giving a tenth were adopted. Surely very many will be found ready to co-operate in this cry for help, to Him who loves the work at home and abroad more than we ever can, and who has commanded us to pray the Lord of the Harvest that He would send forth laborers into the harvest. May we in answer to prayer not only maintain, but extend by sending out all candidates whose hearts have been moved to offer themselves for the foreign field.

Systematic Giving.

The pressure of hard times has brought the question of Church finances prominently into the pages of religious papers and before Presbyteries and conferences, on the other side of the line. The *New York Observer* contains the following practical paragraph by Helen A. Hawley, worth reproducing:—To be trained in the duty and privilege of giving is a need of the Sunday-school scholar. The average child has little idea of money, except as a means of buying enjoyment. Let him be trained to find some enjoyment outside of self.

A superintendent devised the following simple plan --that each teacher should canvass his class to see how much the individual members could give each week to some benevolent cause; then that each class should pledge weekly so many five-cent contributions. For instance, say a class had twelve members; of these, two could pledge five cents each, five could pledge two cents each, and the remaining five one cent each. With the teacher's five cents added, there would be six five cent pledges from this class for every Sunday. No one but the teacher was to know who gave five cents and who gave one cent, a stout envelope being passed around at the close of the lesson, the contributions quietly slipped in, and the whole handed to the treasurer, who was chosen from the class.

This plan was adopted by the school, and worked admirably. The poorest boy or girl felt as much pride