

# The Presbyterian Record.

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## THE IDEAL LIFE.

The ideal life is one of service. He who best serves his God and the well-being of his fellow-men, lives the best, the noblest, the happiest, the ideal life. The service may reach but one or it may help ten thousand; it may in itself be small or great; the length of its arm or its dimensions in men's sight, do not measure it in God's sight.

The ideal life is thus within reach of all. It does not depend upon place, or power, or circumstances, but upon a loving performance of "whatsoever thine hand findeth to do." All cannot have riches, or fame, or comforts, or health, or friends; but the highest and humblest, the richest and poorest alike, may attain the highest ideal of which life is capable. Such was the pattern life; "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister;" not to be served but to serve.

The ideal life builds up in one the character which only can appreciate and enjoy the better life to come. One does not prepare for the polar regions with linen, nor for the tropics with furs. More foolish he who claims to be on the way to heaven and who is building up, day by day, for taking with him, a character that makes its ideal the comfort and good and joy of self, rather than of others. Only the latter kind of spirit can find a congenial home in that better life which we call heaven; and only the life that knows the luxury of doing good to others has any foretaste of heaven here on earth.

Such is the ideal life, the life worth living, the life of which one never wearies, but which grows brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

Both East and West will probably have a deficit in the Home and Foreign Mission Funds, especially the latter, at the close of accounts on the 1st of May. The fact suggests some thoughts which may with profit be pondered. 1. It is cause for gratitude that notwithstanding the hard times the offerings have kept up so well. 2. Those offerings, even yet, come far short on the whole of a fair proportion of what God has given to us; if that were attained God's treasury would be overflowing. 3. The expenditure is caused by the very success of the work. Open doors are

before us, calling us to enter with the Message of Life. 4. The next year's work will demand its own income. The work and the expenditure must go steadily on, and we should at once, as we are able, give more to clear off existing claims. 5. The Funds are made up of individual offerings; each is responsible for his share. Am I doing my duty to the Lord's work? 6. There is no halting; the work goes steadily on, but this only gives the better opportunity along one line, of living the ideal life, of spending ourselves in service for the world's good and God's glory.

## MEETINGS OF SYNOD.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston will meet within St. Andrews Church, Orangeville, on Monday, 13 May, 1895, at 8 o'clock p.m., for conference, and on Tuesday, 14 May, for business, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

JOHN GRAY,

Orillia, 6 April, 1895.

Synod Clerk.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa will meet in St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, Que., on Tuesday, 14 May, at 8 p.m. The business Committee will meet in the church on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Members will please get a receipt for fare paid, from each road travelled on.

K. McLENNAN,

Levis, 5 April, 1895.

Synod Clerk.

**Synod Conference.** At the Meeting of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, which meets in Sherbrooke, 14 May, two conferences will be held. The subjects will be:—

I. Protestantism within the bounds of the Synod, its present position and future prospects.

(1.) English speaking Protestantism. A paper by the Rev. J. R. MacLeod, of Three Rivers.

(2.) French speaking Protestantism. A paper by the Rev. S. J. Taylor.

II. The work of the Holy Ghost.

(1.) In the Christian worker. A paper by the Rev. A. J. Mowatt.

(2.) In the Congregation. A paper by the Rev. James Hastie.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston will meet for conference on Monday evening, 13 May.