

# The Presbyterian Review

Vol. XVII.

September 13, 1900.

No. 11.

## The Century Fund Canvass.

SINCE the meeting of the General Assembly little has been publicly said regarding the Century Fund, and we fear that not much has been done towards the prosecution of the canvass either in city or country. It is to be hoped that with a resumption of congregational activity in the autumn there will be also a revival of effort in this direction, so that the amount aimed at may be guaranteed before the end of the calendar year.

It is now quite abundantly proved that the call for a million dollars did not over-estimate the ability of the Church. About one-half of the congregations have been canvassed and already very nearly \$800,000 have been subscribed. If the other half give in anything like equal proportion it is obvious that the million mark will be far more than reached. The only discouraging features so far have been the disproportionate amounts subscribed by congregations for their own debts and the absence of large contributions from our wealthier members. It was, perhaps, not to be wondered at, however, that congregations with debts should have been the first to take advantage of the movement and that our men of wealth should wait for the action of the rank and file before determining the amount of their own gifts. Now that the success of the movement is practically assured they can be approached with more confidence, and the appeal to their liberality is likely to meet with a readier response.

In order that interest and activity may be stimulated the matter should receive prominent notice at the approaching meetings of Presbytery. Each Presbytery should take measures to find out what has been done and organize in some fashion for the presentation of the canvass in congregations that have so far done little or nothing. There ought to be no valid reason for further delay in any single case. Unless the work be done in the immediate future it will never be done at all. The members of every congregation in the Church, whatever its circumstances, ought to have, at least, the opportunity of sharing in this great forward movement with which the new century is to be opened. None can afford to miss the blessing which it is fitted to bring.

In most cases the canvass can best be conducted by the congregation's own organization, if they only undertake it in an earnest spirit. The appeal is one of such an exceptional nature that the ministers and elders ought not to hesitate about lending their aid in order that it may be made a success. The claim of the common fund, at any rate, is so closely associated with the spiritual life of the Church that the presentation of it is as much a means of grace as anything else they can undertake. They can present it with a good grace also, seeing that they have so nobly led the way.

Where the congregation for any reason is unwilling to

push the canvass through its own office bearers the Presbytery should arrange to have some of its members lend the assistance that may be necessary, or secure the services of a sub-agent. But it should be made clear that this is only the second best thing to do. The permanent value of this effort is going to depend very largely on its spontaneity. If every office bearer will only lend a hand with a little enthusiasm and good will, the desired result will soon be attained and by next Assembly we can have a great thanksgiving day to rejoice over the success of the enterprise, and plan for larger things in all our future work.



## A Rallying Day.

THE Sabbath Schools that have been so sorely depleted during July and August are filling up again, but there are always some who do not come back promptly, and others who do not come back at all. It is not possible to lessen this drain upon the teaching staff, and upon the membership of the classes? Is it not enough that the teacher shall be in his or her place promptly on the first Sunday in September, and shall take up the thread of the lesson plan again. There should be an honest effort on the part of the united workers to win back again those who have not come back of their own accord. It hurts more than the wanderer to feel that his absence from the school does not much matter.

Rallying Day has become a feature of many of the schools in the United States, and has been adopted by some of the most progressive schools in our own Dominion. If it is taken up with enthusiasm Rallying Day may become one of the most helpful features in the year's work. Canadians, and especially Presbyterian Canadians, it would seem, take all things deliberately, and steadily march through what was intended to be carried through with a double-quick movement. If we will enter with a certain amount of abandon into the spirit of rallying our forces for another season's work, it will mean for our schools no loss of stability, and a greatly increased force and enthusiasm.

The last Sabbath in September has been chosen as Rallying Day in the United States, and also in Canada, where the feature has been taken up. It is the Review Day for the third quarter, and it has been customary to have something different from the ordinary service on that day. Why not plan that this special feature shall be a rallying of the forces, an outline of the work that lies ahead, a stimulating plan for carrying this work forward that shall, as it is unfolded, enlist the sympathy and hearty co-operation of the whole school? Not set service, prepared by one who does not know the conditions of the individual school, will meet the need. The best service will be one planned by the