

read, and several resolutions were moved, seconded, and unanimously passed. The whole amount collected was £38 10s 11d., which was appropriated as follows:—to the Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces £18 17s 9d.; to the Home Mission, £5; to the Seminary, £5; to the British and Foreign Bible Society £5; to the *Dayspring*, £4 8s 1½d; and 5s. to the Widows' fund, contributed by an individual.

Woodville, &c.

The Rev. Donald McNeill acknowledges with thanks the sum of £5 10s., per Mr. Donald Beaton, Miller, from the young men of the congregation of Woodville and Little Sands. Also, a valuable gift from Mr. Charles McLean, Teacher, White Sands. Both donations were accompanied with expressions of good will and attachment to their minister, and as such they are very gratifying.

New London.

Mrs. A. McEwen Miss Montgomery and Miss McKay, on behalf of the ladies of the congregation of New London, North and South, recently waited upon Rev. Alex. Cameron, and as a token of their appreciation of his services, presented him with a sealskin coat, other articles of winter apparel, and a sum of money.

Fireside Reading.

Take Freely.

A ship was sailing in the southern waters on the Atlantic, when they saw another vessel making signals of distress. They bore down toward the distressed ship and hailed them.

"What is the matter?"

"We are dying for water," was the response.

"Dip it up, then!" was answered. "You are in the mouth of the Amazon River?"

There those sailors were thirsting, and suffering, and fearing, and longing for water, and supposing that there was nothing but the ocean's brine around them, when in fact, they had sailed unconsciously into the broad mouth of the mightiest river on the globe, and did not know it. And though to them it seemed that they must perish with thirst, yet there was a hundred miles of fresh water all around them, and they had nothing to do but to "dip it up!"

Jesus Christ says, "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." And the Spirit and the Bride say, come, and let him

that heareth say, come, and whosoever will let him come, and take of the *water of life freely*." Thirsting soul, the flood is all around you; "dip it up!" and drink, and thirst no more.

Buy the Truth.

Go, ere the clouds of sorrow
Steal o'er the bloom of youth,
Defer not till to-morrow—
Go, now, and buy the truth.
Go, seek thy great Creator,
Learn early to be wise—
Go, place upon his altar
A morning sacrifice!

If thou Knewest the Gift of God.

Perhaps there is no cry more striking than that of the Eastern water-carrier.—"The gift of God," he says, as he goes along with his water-skin on his shoulder. It is impossible to hear this cry without thinking of our Lord's words to the woman of Samaria:

"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee the living water."

It is very likely that water, so valuable and so often scarce in hot countries, was in those days, as now, spoken of as "the gift of God," to denote its preciousness; if so, the expression would be exceedingly forcible to the woman, as well as full of meaning.

The water-carrier's cry in Egypt must always rouse a thoughtful mind to the recollection of the deep necessities of the people; of the thirst which they yet know not of; and the living water, which few, if any, have offered to the poor Moslems in that great city; and makes him wish and pray for the time when the sonorous cry of "*Ye aatee Allah*" shall be the type of the cry of one bringing the living water of the gospel, and saying, "Behold the gift of God!"

A Spiritual Ministry.

The people who enjoy the labors of a spiritually-minded pastor are greatly blessed. O! there is a value in *spirituality*, which not great natural or acquired abilities can equal. In the selection of a minister, it is easier to judge of his learning or genius than of his *piety*. That is to be developed in the course of years. A really pious, an eminently pious minister will grow in knowledge. How can he help it? His heart will pant after the knowledge of God; and if he pants, he will *drink* to quench its thirst. Hence, a man in the ministry who is ignorant, and continues so long, cannot be a pious man. The work of the ministry de-