

A PROPER LEADER OF PSALMODY.—A precentor ought to be a musician—not an individual who has nothing but a good voice to recommend him, but a musician in the broadest sense of the term—one who is thoroughly versant in the science, and is capable of teaching the art of singing; for he that would attempt instructing others on any subject must be intimately acquainted with that subject in all its parts, else his progress will be very small indeed. A teacher of singing, besides being perfectly familiar with the art, must be able to speak, to explain succinctly and fully various things that his pupils may find difficult to comprehend. In the course of instructing a class, there will necessarily be many demands of this kind upon him. I know some excellent musicians who cannot grammatically arrange three sentences. Mere capability of leading a congregation is not all that is requisite in precentors. But it will naturally be inquired—Is a precentor with the above qualifications to be expected for £15 or £20 a-year? Certainly not:—£40 or £50 is little enough. This would make him independent of other means of support, and would allow him to devote his time and energies to the one subject. Were such a sum offered, it would induce men of talent to qualify themselves for the office. "Bless me," I hear some one exclaiming, "what a sum to give a precentor!" My good sir, reflect a little. Don't some of our congregations expend about that amount on music as it is? Have not they large bands, which are not kept without considerable expense? Now, had they for a precentor a thorough musician, at a musician's salary, he would have nothing else to do but teach the people to sing; and I doubt not but he would find this work enough. He could have a number of practising every week at the proper season; and there is no question but these would be well attended, especially by the young, from the interest that a real musician's teaching would impart to them. They would be quite different affairs from most of those of the present day, where perhaps three-fourths don't open their mouths at all. He would thus, in the course of time, be able to form the whole church into a band—which is the only kind of band that ought to be tolerated in the house of God.—*Correspondent of the Greenock Advertiser.*

PUTTING RESOLUTIONS INTO PRACTICE.—At a missionary meeting held amongst the negroes in the West Indies, these three resolutions were agreed upon:—

1. We will all give something.
2. We will all give as God has enabled us.
3. We will all give willingly.

So soon as the meeting was over, a leading negro took his seat at the table, with pen and ink, to put down what each came to give. Many came forward and gave, some more and some less. Amongst those that came was a rich old negro, almost as rich as all the rest put together, and threw down a small silver coin. "Take dat back again," said the negro that received the money, "dat may be according to de first resolution, but it is not according to de second." The rich old man accordingly took it up, and hobbled back again to his seat in a great rage. One after another came forward, and almost all gave more than himself, and he was fairly ashamed of himself, and again threw down a piece of money on the table, saying "Dare, take dat!" It was a valuable piece of gold, but it was given so ill-temperedly that the negro answered again, "No! dat wont do yet. It may be according to de first and second resolution, but it is not according to de last;" and he was obliged to take up his coin again. Still angry at himself and all the rest, he sat a long time till nearly all were gone, and then came up to the table, and with a smile on his face, and very willingly gave a large sum to the treasurer. "Very well," said the negro, "dat will do. Dat according to all de resolutions."

CHEAP RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS.—At a late meeting of the Commission, Dr. Candlish, as Convener of the Committee for Publication of the Works of Scottish Reformers and Divines, stated that, though he was prepared to have made a pretty full Report, showing the state of the funds and the proceedings of the Committee during the first year, yet at this late hour he should content himself with merely mentioning that, as the funds were such as to enable the Committee to publish

a fourth volume for the first year, they were now preparing such a volume, which would consist of biographies (chiefly of Mrs. Veitch, A. Hoag, of Kiltarity, and Henry Erskine, father of Ralph and Ebenezer), and though it would not be of the same thickness as the others, would form a very respectable volume. The Committee would then, to a certain extent, fulfil the original pledge which they gave to their subscribers at the commencement of the scheme. The above volume, however, could only be sent to those who continued subscribers for the second year; but to others it would be delivered on application at the Depository. Dr. Candlish then laid on the table a Catechism on the principles of the Church, which the Committee were about to issue, and which had been prepared by the Rev. Mr. Gray, of Perth. He begged to state in reference to this Catechism, that it was marked by all the talent, vigour, clearness, and precision which characterized the author. It traced throughout the connection between the principles of the Free Church and the maintenance of vital godliness, and would prove a very valuable book to the people of Scotland, being, in fact, a history of the Church down to the present time.

The Moderator begged merely to state, that he had perused this manual, and fully concurred in all that Dr. Candlish had said. It was one of the most admirable productions he ever read, and eminently fitted to be useful to the Free Church.

FREE CHURCH.—EDUCATION.—It will be remembered that, at the Inverness Assembly, the Committee was authorized and directed to look out for and engage an individual of the highest qualifications, to conduct and superintend the whole educational operations of the Free Church. The Church at large, and the friends of education, will now hail with the highest satisfaction the announcement which we are authorized to make, that Mr. John Gibson, her Majesty's Inspector of Government Schools of Scotland, has resigned the appointment held by him in connection with the Government, and consented to undertake the charge and superintendence of our whole movements and arrangements under this vitally important scheme. The Committee have the utmost confidence that this appointment will lead to the vigorous and efficient prosecution of all those measures of organization and improvement in the educational system of the Free Church which are needed, and calculated to establish it securely in that position of paramount influence which it already to a large extent occupies.—*Home and Foreign Missionary Record for November.*

A BRIEF REPORT.—A committee on the state of religion in one of the New England Associations, deviating from the usually prolix style of documents on that subject, presented the following:—

"That the state of religion in the churches composing this Association is lamentably low, needs no argument to prove; but to prescribe a remedy is a task more difficult—yet your Committee make an attempt. Therefore—

Resolved—That the shepherds of the several flocks repent of their lukewarmness, humble themselves at the foot of the cross, seek forgiveness of God, and return wholly to his service.

Resolved—That the flocks follow their shepherds."

SIR WALTER SCOTT AND WILBERFORCE.—In reading a few evenings since, the diary of the great and good William Wilberforce, we were struck with the following passage, in reference to the Waveley novels, which were just then in course of publication:—"I am always sorry that they should have so little moral or religious object. They remind me of a giant spending his strength in cracking nuts. I would rather go to render up my account at the last day, carrying up with me 'The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain,' than bearing the load of all those volumes, full as they are of genius."

MADRAS.—Three converts are under probation for license to the ministry at this Presidency.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

JOHN RUDFERN, ESQ., TREASURER.—MONTREAL.	
Nov. 10.—Congregation at Bytown by the Rev. Mr. Wardrop.	£6 1 3
Congregation at Kingston, by Mr. Shaw.	8 12 2
Congregation at Esqueving, by Mr. Dickson.	1 13 0
An offering from the children and others of the Streetsville Congregation, on New Year's Day morning.	1 15 9
Missionary Association of the Coburg Congregation, being one of the objects of the Association, by Rev. Mr. Alexander.	5 0 0
Congregation of Millbrook, in Cavan Thorold and St. Catharines, per Rev. A. Macintosh.	3 4 0
	1 15 0

COLLEGE FUND, TORONTO.

J. M. MURRICH, ESQ., TREASURER.	
Streetsville, per Mr. Paterson.	3 12 6
" additional,	
per Rev. W. Rintoul.	0 5 0
Esqueving, (Scotch block) per do.	2 0 0
London, per John Michie.	5 0 0
Niagara, per Rev. A. Gale.	2 6 0
Ainherathburgh, per Rev. Robert Pedden.	1 10 0
Mr. McColl, Esqueving.	0 5 0
Ingersoll, per Rev. Dr. Fernier.	1 10 0
6th Concession Ancaster, per James Walker.	0 15 0
Sarnia and Plympton, per George Stevenson.	7 0 0
Cote Street Church, Montreal, per Mr. Orr.	13 7 3
St. John's Church, Quebec, per Rev. John Clugston.	15 0 0
Free Temple Church, Chinguacousy, per John Smith.	2 5 0
Donation from William Connell, Toronto.	0 4 10
South Cavan and Millbrook, per Rev. Mr. Douglas.	6 0 8
Grafton and Colborne, per Rev. Mr. Reid.	2 3 6
Knox's Church, Hamilton, per Rev. A. Gale.	15 0 0
Caledonia, per R. McKinnon, Esq.	2 0 7

HOME MISSIONS.

Presbytery of Toronto.

JAMES SHAW, ESQ., TREASURER.

To collection at Vaughan, per Mr. D. Campbell.	2 0 0
To collection at Oakville, per Mr. John Urphart.	3 0 0
To collection at Acton, Esqueving, per Rev. D. McMillan.	2 0 0
To collection at Scotch Block, Esqueving, per W. Rintoul.	3 10 0
To donation from Female Association of Knox's Church, Toronto, per Mrs. Burns.	13 11 6
To donation from Mr. George May, Chinguacousy.	2 10 0
To collection at Mono, per Mr. Alex. Laidlaw.	1 5 0
" " " "	0 11 4
To collection at Vaughan, per Rev. James Harris.	1 5 0
To collection at Union Church, Esqueving, per Mr. Robert Swinton.	5 0 0

Presbytery of Hamilton.

DANIEL MICHAN, ESQ., TREASURER.

To contribution, 6th Concession, Ancaster.	7 5 11
To contribution from Nelson, Waterdown and Wellington Square.	11 13 1
To donation from E. M. Stewart, Esq., Cayuga.	1 0 0
To contribution from Zorra.	12 6 3
" " Owen's Sound.	3 4 8
" " Caledonia.	7 10 0
" " Ladies' Association, Knox's Church, Hamilton.	42 0 2