

body, or even church, lose their faith, not in God, but their trust in each other, lose heart and interest in the cause for which under other circumstances they would have given their lives. Brethren, is the description here given borne out by any facts within your own knowledge? Have you ever had occasion to feel that the ground beneath your feet was insecure, that you scarcely knew where, on what, or in whom, you can place reliance? Then, let us labor more faithfully, and in unison, beseech the throne of God's rich grace, that men everywhere, may be regenerated, and that all our churches may be filled with those who, by humbly walking with God shall be enabled to give undoubted testimony, that they have passed from death unto life. Then indeed shall Solomon's beautiful prophetic vision be realized, for the church shall have become "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

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"REPORT ON BENEVOLENT FUNDS."

"Your Committee on Benevolent Funds beg to report that in their opinion the amounts contributed by the majority of the churches for carrying forward the various enterprises of the Denomination, and reported in their letters to the Association, are *deplorably* and *disgracefully* small. *Deplorably* small when they consider how inadequately these enterprises are sustained, and how, consequently, they pine and languish; and *disgracefully* small when they reflect how miserably the sums sent in represent the financial ability of those contributing them.

Many professing Christians in our churches spend every year more for mere luxuries and superfluities than they do for the cause of Christ.

Most freely have they received from Christ; most meanly do they give to Christ.

As a remedy to this state of things your Committee would suggest:—

1. That all those to whom these words apply, and few are excepted, would earnestly pray God to open their worldly, covetous, niggard souls, And

2. That the churches systematize their mode of giving, adopting the quarterly, or monthly, or—better still—the *weekly* plan.

Respectfully submitted,

D. M. WELTON, Chairman."

That the churches in New Brunswick are in no healthier condition may be seen from an extract from the Halifax "Christian Messenger" of July 10, 1872. The editor says: "We learn from the 'Visitor' that the letters [to the Western Association], from the Churches indicated a low state of religion generally in our churches. Increase for the year very small, and benevolent action not at all commensurate with the demands of the spirit of the age, or with the requirements of the gospel. Spiritual destitution seems upon the increase, and the necessity for pastoral and missionary work more urgent than ever."

In justice the "Covenant" into which the members of the churches referred to in the foregoing documents, solemnly enter, and which they