

This background reappeared in Dr. Holme's thought and work from time to time, like the mountains which encircled the childhood of Titian and haunted his pictures in all his later life. Born in Cambridge, in the very centre of the finest Puritan traditions, Dr. Holmes was the representative not only of what used to be called Old Boston, but of what he himself called the Brahmin caste in New England. He was an aristocrat to the very heart, but it was an aristocracy based on moral cleanness, on intellectual distinction, and on gentle manners. Never was there a kindlier, simpler, more unaffected nature than his; but he loved scholarship, and he believed that the reappearance of a family name generation after generation in the college catalogue meant something."

With his death one more of the brilliant coterie of New England has passed away. Longfellow, Lowell and now Holmes are of the past, but departing they have left footprints behind them which shall not be lost in the sands of time.

The Augmentation Fund.

In our report of the meeting of the Augmentation Committee, their occur two very important sentences, viz. :—"The claims of the Presbyteries for the past six months, amounting to \$12,279.56 were passed and ordered to be paid. There being only \$1,000 in the treasury, the convener and treasurer were empowered to borrow the necessary amount to pay the claims immediately. There need be no alarm caused by the two facts here stated—a debt of over twelve thousand dollars; and funds to meet the debt, amounting only to one thousand dollars. The credit of the Committee is good and doubtless by able financing the income will be made by and by to cover the expenditure, but all the same the facts are far from creditable. Here is a standing committee of the Church, having in hand most necessary and vital duties, in the discharge of which it ought to have the generous support of the wealthy members of the Church, and, yet, it is compelled to face a liability of twelve thousand with one thousand dollars and authority to borrow eleven thousand! This is not as it should be, and it ought not to be thus for long. There is no question about the economy practised by the Committee, nor of the prudence with which the fund at its disposal is dispensed; but neither can there be any question as to the failure of duty on the part of those to whom God has given in abundance of the things of this world. We have again and again urged in these columns the duty of giving to the cause of Christ—a duty which, if done in a true spirit is one of the most precious privileges the believer possesses. But at every turn is to be seen, and the pity of it is that the neglect of this duty, with its deplorable resultant barrenness of spiritual life, seems to rouse but indifferent concern in the churches. Of appeals for money there be many; but of instruction as to the motive, privilege, and the worship in giving, a dearth prevails in the majority of pulpits. And attention cannot be too often drawn to that fact, for when worldliness has entrenched itself as it has in these times, then only persistent effort will bring men's minds to think seriously of their duty in the premises.

The scheme proposed by the committee seems well conceived, but only increased and more general liberality on the part of the church will place the work of the committee on an adequate basis.

For the North-West. Dr. Cochrane has received £50 from Broughton Place, U. P. Church, Edinburgh, Scotland, being their second instalment towards the support of two stations in the North-West.

Donations to Home Missions. It is with pleasure we announce that the following sums have been received by Dr. Cochrane for Home Missions: A member of Anstruther Free Church £5; "S" £50; Westbourne Free Church, Glasgow, £50; St. Andrews' Free Church, Edinburgh, £50; St. John's Free Church Dundee, £17; St. Paul's, Dundee, £50; Free St. George's, Paisley, £25.12.6; Wellington Street U. P. Church, Glasgow, £98.0.2; and through Mr. Gordon there has been sent, from Rosemary Street Church, Belfast, £50; a member of same £50; Fishwick Place Church, Belfast £50; Trinity Church, Cork, £50; Free St. George's, Edinburgh (Mrs. Geo. Brown), £50. Kingston Church £50; and Windsor Church £10.

An Urgent Appeal. In connection with the disastrous fires in the west the following touching appeal has been issued which we are requested to reproduce:—

TO THE PRESBYTERIAN PUBLIC:

DEAR FRIENDS—On Saturday, September 1, 1894, a fire cyclone visited and laid in ashes the towns of Hinckley and Sandstone, Minn., including the Presbyterian Churches of those towns. Of the population of the fire cyclone district eight hundred are dead and six thousand are homeless and penniless. Nine of the communicants of the Kinckley church are among the dead. Rev Peter Knudson, the pastor, has conducted fifteen funeral services and assisted in the burial of one hundred and ninety-six bodies. Everything is needed—clothing, bedding, furniture, building material, and food can be obtained by any of the sufferers only through assistance from outside. The pastor needs books. The church buildings were never more needed. Money may be sent to Rev. T. M. Findley, 1505 W. Superior street, Duluth, Minn., and supplies to Rev. Peter Knudson, Pine City, Minn. Fraternally yours: T. M. Findley, S. A. Jamieson, T. H. McCallom, Committee Duluth Presbyterian Alliance.

New Hymnal. The following items may interest readers as indicating the care with which the hymns have been selected for our new Book of Praise. Of the hymns spoken of in "English Hymns" (Duffield) 243 appear in our proposed new Book. The Christian Endeavor Hymnal contains 257 hymns. Of these 64 are found in our book with 566 additional hymns, and 98 selections from the Psalms. "The National Hymn Book of the American Churches," compiled from Baptist, Congregational, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed Hymn Books contains 156 hymns, and of these our new book has 107. As to Anglican Hymnology, 325 hymns are found in at least 15 of the 52 books compared. Of the 105 placed in the first rank because found in at least 30 of these hymn books our book contains 91. Of the 110 ranked in the second class as found in at least 20 of these, we have 63; and of those in the third rank we have 47. Thus our proposed new Book of Praise contains 200 of the 325 hymns that have been ranked as the best in these 52 hymn books, which contain 2,000 of the best known hymns in the English language. These facts speak for themselves.

From the notices issued, it is observed that Western Reserve University, Ohio, has opened auspiciously, with a large attendance of students and every prospect of a prosperous session.