

believe that £5500 is nearer the mark than £3200. But in order that the case for the proposed steamer may be presented in as favorable a light as the facts will allow, we shall take the lower estimate as the basis of comparison.

The advantages enjoyed by the Mission, if Dr. Paton's project were realized, would be: a small steamer of 350 tons, or, rather, a small sailing vessel with an auxiliary screw—calling at the mission stations about once a quarter. And for this comparatively inefficient and infrequent service the Churches would have to pay about £800 a voyage, or £3200 a year, a sum almost as great as that expended in maintaining the Mission.

The second alternative is the continuance of the present arrangement. An ocean steamer will soon run monthly between Sydney and Vila Harbour. A smaller steamer, the "Croydon," never leaves the group, and will meet the ocean steamer once a month, after having visited every mission station in the group. For this comparatively effective and, frequent service the Churches pay a subsidy of £1200 a year, or £100 a voyage. They may spend more than that, if they please; but that is all they need spend; that is the cost of the service.

The alternatives compared in detail are:—a small steamer or a large; a quarterly service or a monthly; a cost per trip of £800 or £100; an annual cost of £3200 or £1200.

Such being the facts, the contributing Churches and the Mission Synod should each have a voice in so grave a matter as the choice between those alternatives. If prudent counsels prevail, Dr. Paton's project must be set aside as impracticable and undesirable. We are sure that this decision will be come to with somewhat of reluctance and pain, out of respect for the feelings and wishes of the venerable missionary. But common sense must override sentiment, especially when sentiment, would cost so much.

If, then, there is to be no Mission steamer, what is to be done with the money which Dr. Paton has collected and earmarked? The answer is not far to seek. The £9000 should be vested in trustees, the interest to be applied towards the maintenance of the steam communication with the islands. That interest at 5 per cent. would be £450. Add the £1000 promised annually. Then £1450 would be available for the upkeep of the service. The money raised for the Day-spring Fund would in that case be set free, and might be utilized in placing half-a-dozen or more new missionaries on the islands. So that the question that comes up for decision is this: Shall the mission have an inefficient and expensive maritime service or an efficient and inexpensive service with half-a-dozen or more new missionaries into the bargain? Even Dr. Paton could not hesitate as to the proper answer.

Mr. Moody's Work.

A letter appears in another column, from a highly esteemed correspondent, whose judgments are always worth consideration, in which a question is raised as to Mr. Moody's method of teaching in the enquiry room.

The question is a very proper and an all important one, and only good can come from such a discussion conducted in the spirit of this communication. On the two occasions in which our correspondent visited the enquiry room Mr. Moody addressed the enquirers in a

way that savored of salvation by works and not by grace through faith. On the first evening he urged the offensiveness of sin—and asked all to stand up who were determined to cast it away. On the second evening the address was on the text "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," and all were asked to stand up who were resolved to seek the Kingdom of God. On both occasions a considerable number stood up.

Now if that were all that took place we would agree with our correspondent that it was not only unsatisfactory but dangerous teaching—that these young people who arose under the impulse of strong feeling would go away to be disappointed and discouraged and farther away from the Kingdom of God than ever. But as we understand the process, that was not all. As soon as Mr. Moody's address was over the real work of enquiry the personal dealing began—the workers entered into conversation with the anxious and sought to point them to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. Mr. Moody's request that they should stand up, was really asking them whether they were ready to come to the Physician that they might be healed. If the workers were skilful, and did their part wisely and well many of those who by standing up expressed their determination to seek left the room rejoicing in a Saviour found. If we were disposed to be critical, it is there we would place the finger as the weak point of the campaign. We have no doubt the workers in the enquiry room meant well, but is it prudent to put such delicate work into the hands of the many who with the best of motives offer their services for such work? Mr. Moody has had much experience and he thinks it is. It may at least be said that it is the best that can be done.

We are confirmed in our conviction that this is the answer to our correspondents question, by the whole trend of Mr. Moody's teaching and writings as well. Simple faith in Christ is the burden of it all—none can hear him very often without being satisfied upon that point. "Take God at His Word" is his whole creed.

Now that the meetings are past we would congratulate all that have received blessing, and trust that every congregation in the city will find during days to come the benefit of these weeks of united effort.

Manitoba College.

On the third Sabbath of this month an opportunity will be given to the Church to bestow of its means on one of the most useful of its many institutions. On that date the collection for Manitoba College will be made. Situated on the threshold of the great western provinces and territories, this College occupies a singularly important position with respect to the work of the Church and the welfare of the country. The nature of the work confronting the Church in the western field has been often laid before the people by such able and earnest and masterly leaders as Rev. Dr. Robertson, Rev. Principal King, Rev. Dr. Bryce and others, and it need be alluded to but very briefly here. It has peculiar difficulties, as it has peculiar importance. The great territory to be covered, the sparseness of the population, the want of railway connection, the mixed races, with varying character and habits, the free life of the prairie, the severe struggles of incipient communities to secure home comforts; these are a few of