

east and from the west, from the north and from the south, and enter into the kingdom of God before myriads who have had the Gospel pressed upon their acceptance. How different were the aspect of Christian lands were people influenced by such hunger for the word of truth as was manifested in the case of the poor Samoan cripple.

Here too is a lesson to careless christian hearers of the word. These are not unbelievers—not altogether careless, but they are far from being as diligent and faithful as they ought to be in increasing their knowledge. The best instructed members of the Church have much to learn, and must continue learning while life lasts. Woe to the stunted soul that thinks it has reached perfection, or that its education is complete! "My people perish for lack of knowledge," was God's complaint against Israel long ago, and it applies too well to His people in modern times. We do not listen with sufficient earnestness; we do not read enough of the right kind of books or papers; we do not commune as we ought with Christ in the privacy of our chambers. Truth in all its phases is not so precious to us as it ought to be.

The case of the Samoan cripple is a rebuke to those who neglect to pray. His growth in grace and knowledge was secured by his turning every acquisition into fresh matter for prayer. He prayed in private and in his family, and no doubt he would have prayed in the congregation had he been able to attend. How many nominal Christians—members of churches—live in the neglect of family prayer, if not secret prayer too! No wonder that the church has to cry, "My leanness, my leanness!" It is very sad too, to see in many congregations, the smallness of the number of those who call on God in public prayer. Practical infidelity is coming in upon us as a flood; myriads in christian lands—the children of Church parents—live as if there were no death, no Judgment, no Heaven, no Hell.

OUR FUNDS.

Nearly three-fourths of the Synod's financial year having expired, it may be wise to glance at the state of our funds. The greater part of what is usually paid in at, and after, the New Year has probably been received, so that we may at least know

where deficiencies are most likely to occur. We commence with

THE "DAYSPRING" FUND.

Although no appeal has been made to our young people in the pages of the *Record*, nor even a hint given respecting the time when payments were expected, the juveniles have been on the alert, and their contributions have been steadily flowing in until they exceed \$700. Still above \$500 are required,—and wishing the boys and girls to be free of debt by March 1st, we would suggest that they send along their dollars without delay. The \$1250 have been forwarded, and have likely, ere this, met the *Dayspring* in New Zealand, where she is to winter during the present season.

THE FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

We need scarcely say that the balance here is on the right side, and tolerably large. It is creditable to our people that they require no appeals to keep this treasury replenished. The balance on hand is over \$2000. Mr. Gordon's salary is henceforth to be drawn from the Church of New South Wales, but it is to be hoped that we shall soon have another missionary either for the New Hebrides or Trinidad. At all events, if Mr. Morton's Coolie schools are put in operation, the expense will equal the present salary of a missionary in the New Hebrides.

HOME MISSIONS.

If the Foreign Mission treasury is reasonably full, the Home Mission purse is nearly empty. One month ago it was destitute of a dollar or even a cent, and some bills recommended by Presbyteries had to stand over. Quite a number of contributions have been received since, as our acknowledgments in the January and February *Records* show, but the *continuance* of that influx is required, and hereby solicited. There are heathen at home as well as abroad. There is a lapsed population in other places than the cities of the Old World. It is to be found even in our interior districts, where the Gospel has been preached for an age,—how much more in shore districts, where the means of grace have never been regularly enjoyed. Our main want is indeed the want of men.—but we must be careful that the men we have not only receive, but receive *promptly*, their support. Our probationers should not have cause, while their pecuniary fee is so very limited, to complain of tantalizing delays. We have furnished monthly for some time reports of missionary work within these Provinces, quite as interesting in their place as the letters from abroad. The work is one,—let it be so prosecuted