

those figures. In the following year eight hundred and seventy-five were reported, a year later *nine hundred and seven*, last year *seven hundred and eight*, and to-day we report less than *five hundred*.

In connection with these figures we wish to present another series that we think stand closely related to them. In 1896 the Treasurer reported *receipts* from the churches, \$12,376.08; in '97, \$11,483.30; in '98, \$11,365.25, and this year he reports \$10,204.81. This is not heartsome reading. We know how inadequately and sometimes how unfairly figures such as those given present the true situation. Yet we ought not to shrink from carefully examining them, nor should we hide from the churches the conclusion to which they so manifestly lead. Continued and increasing fruitlessness unquestionably suggests spiritual decline, and spiritual decline soon empties both churches and treasuries. The money needed is at the command of our people; yet they do not give. Will change of policy or administration, more frequent and more urgent appeals for money, improvement in organization and methods, bring the relief so eagerly desired? We think not. The lock that guards much of the hidden treasure no human skill nor power can unlock. True relief can only come through the quickening and deepening of the spiritual life of the churches; and in no way could any day of the six devoted to the sessions of this convention be more profitably employed than in prayer for ourselves and the churches we represent. If we left these meetings with hidden, deep, quenchless heart longings for "more of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts," more fellowship through the Holy Ghost with our Divine Lord and Master, more sympathy with Him in His infinite compassion for the perishing, and more absolute conviction of our great need of more of the sanctifying, energizing, and power-imparting blessed Holy Spirit Himself, we are persuaded that "shouts of salvation" would soon be echoing and re-echoing over the hills and dales of our beloved country, and that glad hearts would bring their silver and their gold and place them at the disposal of Him "who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree." Appeals addressed to apathetic, indifferent hearts will bring neither comfort nor treasure.

Revive Thy work, O Lord,
Thy mighty arm make bare;
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead,
And make Thy people hear.

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