

The Presbyterian Review

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21
23, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be
addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line
per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line
1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines.
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Toronto, Oct. 8, 1896

Church Funds.

AT the present date the Foreign Mission Fund is
overdrawn about \$40,000. During the present
month the claims to Missionaries laboring in the Home
field during the past half year, as well as the grants to
ministers of Augmented congregations, have to be paid.
These will amount to nearly \$50,000. By the end of
the month the annuities to retired ministers, and to the
widows and orphans of deceased ministers, are due, as
also the salaries to the Missionaries of the Board of
French Evangelization. These will necessitate an
additional \$25,000, making in all about \$115,000,
needed prior to the end of October. This will entail a
very heavy expenditure for interest, to obviate which,
it is earnestly requested that all congregations forward,
without delay, whatever money they may have on hand
for the Schemes of the Church, to the Rev. Dr. Warden,
Toronto. The General Assembly has on more than
one occasion strongly recommend this, and repeated
the recommendation at its meeting in June last.
Fewer legacies have been received thus far this year
for the Mission work of the Church, than formerly, so
that increased contributions are required from the con-
gregations, Sabbath Schools, and Christian Endeavor
Societies of the Church.

It is more than ever felt that the success of all
appeals rests under God with our ministers. It is
believed that were they faithful in presenting the claims
of the several Schemes, our people generally would
respond liberally.

At the recent meeting of the General Assembly
special attention was called by the Committee upon
the Widows' and Orphans' Fund to the fact that the
revenue of last year was \$3,600 short of the expenditure.
This was caused largely by the increased number of
widows and orphans of recent years on the Fund, and
also to some extent because of diminished income from
investments. The Committees are most anxious that
it should not be necessary to recommend to the
Assembly a reduction in the amount at present paid to
annuitants. This is only \$150.00 per annum for
widows, with a small sum for children under eighteen
years of age. It is of the utmost importance that the
revenue should be increased, and there ought to be
little difficulty in attaining this end if the claims of the
Schemes were presented by ministers to their congre-
gations.

The total amount received last year from congrega-
tional contributions and bequests was \$5,300.00. A
large number of congregations sent no contribution
whatever. Every congregation in the Church ought to
regard it, not only a duty, but a privilege to contribute
to this Fund. The annuities are payable on the 1st,
November and we trust that during the present month
large contributions will be received, not only from the

congregations of the Church, but from individual
friends, who are interested in the comfortable main-
tenance of the widows and orphans of the ministers
who have been doing the Church's work in by gone
years.

Ecclesiastical Exclusiveness.

The Rev. Dr. Whitsit, President of the Southern
Baptist Theological Seminary who recently disturbed the
peace of his fellow church members by the declaration that
there was no satisfactory evidence that immersion was
practiced by dissenters in England previous to the time of
Roger Williams, has again provoked their criticism by
teaching his students that pedo-Baptist churches are true
Churches of Christ. The denominational news-papers are
denouncing him for his unfaithfulness to their acknowledged
principles. Such narrowness on the part of the Baptist
churches generally, however, seems almost incredible.
We like to see a man loyal to his own denomination but
surely that should not hinder him from recognizing the
Christian standing of others as well. We should be sorry
to think that in this matter such an Evangelical body as the
Baptists should class themselves with Roman Catholics and
High Anglicans. We expect better things from them and
hope they will not allow themselves to become the victims
of their own logic. Christian love should not be quenched
by the water of baptism. Better save it to drown out the
fires of sin.

Striking a Balance.

Writing of a liturgy the Presbyterian Writers of Halifax
gives expression to these thoughts which are timely and
pertinent:—It seems to us that the Presbyterian Church
could not confine herself to a liturgy without serious and
irreparable loss. It is for her to use the intellect of the
people as well as of the ministers in the services of the
sanctuary. Neither ministers nor people ought ever to
become passive reciters or performers of prayers or rites
prescribed by any authority.

In our services there is another canon subordinate to
the one already quoted, but still important: "Let every-
thing be done decently and in order." While never aiming
at mere ministering to a fastidious taste, we ought to avoid
what is offensive to a correct taste. The beautiful is not
to be forbidden and execrated; the beautiful is of the Lord.
We are to worship in the beauty of holiness. There is no
reason why the free, intelligent, intellectual, devout and
fervent services of the Presbyterian Churches should not be
as delightful as any on earth. It is right too that helps
should be used freely and without rebuke where helps are
required. All our services should be our best, and enriched
with the spoils of all Christian ages.

The Joy of Believing.

Christians are but seldom confronted now-a-days
with the charge that religion produces a gloom in their
lives, driving the cheerfulness and happiness away.
That fiction has been discarded and the joyful side of
religion is more and more acknowledged. Giving vent
to this feeling a contemporary remarks thus of the reli-
gion that sings:

Christianity is the religion that sings itself. Atheism
has no songs; agnosticism is not tuneful. We have
never heard of a Brahmanic hymnal or a Confucian
psalmody. The meters of heathendom or savagery,
so far as paganism is vocal at all, are not once to be
compared with the lively heartiness, with the freeness,
fullness and depth of Christian song. There is a spon-
taneity and an abandon to the songs of Christians
that is sadly lacking in all the musical exercises of