

that their own body should take a fair share of the toil. The true test of a church ought to be the work which it did."

At this meeting, one of those liberal offers which we are accustomed to hear of almost every session was made by Mr. H. O. Wills, of Bristol, to contribute £300 to the funds of the Society if nine other gentlemen would do the same. We observed that three other names were mentioned as having responded to this offer, but it was not stated if the whole amount was made up.

One of the most important papers read at the meeting was by Mr. Morley, on Chapel Trust Deeds, their character, custody, and influence upon the life of the body. The paper was evidently most carefully prepared, and is deserving of close attention in this country as well as in England. It is of the last importance that the trust deed of a chapel should be carefully drawn, and not encumbered with any proviso which may be a drag upon the life of the church. In the matter of trustees, more than one of our churches are in the anomalous position of having trustees who have for years ceased to be members of the church, and who may be actually hostile to it, yet who cannot be removed but by an application to Chancery, a proceeding in no way desirable. It is as easy to make provision for this when drawing up a deed, as it is difficult to remedy it subsequently. It is also important that proper care should be given to the custody of the deeds. We have an impression that as little real care is taken of them here as was found in some of the English chapels. On the one point of the stringency of the trust deeds, we so fully agree with Mr. Morley that we quote his own words :

"1. In many of them I have found introduced provisions which are quite irreconcilable with our most cherished principles. Thus I have myself seen a deed within the last six months, in which the power of appointing the minister to a chapel was vested not in the church members or spiritual persons as we are accustomed to consider them, but in the seat-holders; a money payment entitling them to this privilege. Not unfrequently the appointment is in the trustees, who thus supersede the functions of the Church. 2. In many of them there is much that is unnecessary. Thus I remember a deed in which a clause was inserted prescribing where and by whom the key of the building should be kept, a detail which might surely have been left to the church and its officers. With all deference for some of our existing models, I venture to submit whether it is necessary that the exact mode of appropriation of the pew-rents, the service of occasional ministers, &c., should be the subject of clauses, and whether these and similar subjects may not be covered by the general phrase, "according to the usages, &c." without further definition. 3. I shall, I think, carry with me the sympathies of this assembly in expressing gratification that it is ceasing to be a custom among us to prescribe that the minister shall, when called upon, be required to declare *in writing* his adherence to certain "doctrines and order," a provision which needlessly exposes him to disrespect and annoyance. 4. I venture to add that it is my earnest desire that it should be very carefully considered whether it is wise and right to render so prominent in our trust deeds our practice of "pædobaptism," in the presence of a very wide-spread, and as I hope, increasing desire to combine the two sections into which Congregationalists are divided. The controversy is one which is bequeathed to us with historical bitterness, and in relation to it differences have been exaggerated. When we insert in our legal instruments the phrase "being pædobaptists," we are not only preventing at the present time the admission on equal terms of our brethren who are Baptists; but what to my mind is far more grievous, we are binding our successors never to welcome them on such terms, "at all times for ever hereafter." It may be that the Baptists will not come—that they will persist in being separate—but why should we render it impossible, whatever may happen, that they should on equal