

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

The following is a statement regarding the Funds of the Church. In the first column are given the receipts to 31st January 1902, in the second column the receipts to 31st January 1903, and, in the third column the amount necessary to be received during the month of February to enable the several Funds to close the year without debt.

	1902 Jan. 31	1903 Jan. 31	Still Required
Home Mission Fund	\$47,824.92	\$44,233.62	\$3,746.38
Augmentation Fund	10,193.90	11,067.69	18,932.91
Foreign Mission "	27,788.86	32,997.31	47,902.69
For. M. from W. P. M. S.	18,000.00	19,000.00	
French Evangelization	8,440.55	11,792.85	13,307.15
Pointe-Aux-Trembles	3,534.46	5,397.64	4,692.36
Wid. & Orphans' Fund	3,633.05	5,432.64	9,747.36
Aged & Infirm Min. "	3,135.46	4,392.76	8,637.24
Assembly Fund	3,541.40	3,699.18	3,260.82
Knox College	3,967.74	2,940.45	8,053.55
Queen's College	1,238.50	956.83	4,543.17
Montreal College	807.74	1,236.24	3,673.76
Manitoba College	2,063.28	1,942.56	657.44

Nearly one half the total amount received for the schemes of the church is received during the month of February, so that, even at this date, it is difficult to form an accurate estimate of how matters stand.

After a careful examination of the receipts to this date, for the last five or six years, the Funds, generally speaking, appear to me, in a satisfactory condition, and, should we receive during February the same amount as was got in that month last year, nearly all of the funds will be out of debt when the books close on the 28th inst. There are, however, one or two exceptions to this. While the receipts for the French Fund, including Pointe-aux-Trembles, are in excess of those at the corresponding period last year, it should be borne in mind that the revenue, last year, was \$4,000 less than the expenditure in the ordinary French Fund and \$2,000 less than the expenditure in the Pointe-aux-Trembles Fund, so that the receipts for the month of February, this year, should greatly exceed those of last if these funds are to be free from debt.

The two Funds, however, which call for special attention, are the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' and the Aged and Infirm Ministers'. At the present date, the outlook for these is far from encouraging. The full amount asked by the committee will this year be required; and unless the receipts for the month of February are, in each case, more than double those of February of last year, there will not be money with which to pay the annuities due next month. In addition to increased grants from congregations of the church, are there not many of our people who will regard it a privilege to send special contributions towards these two Funds, so as to render unnecessary any reduction in the annuities? Where congregations have not, thus far, sent a contribution this year, will not ministers and sessions see that one is taken and forwarded for these Funds before the 28th inst? After all, the matter rests very largely in the hands of ministers and sessions, and it is confidently believed that if they heartily present the claims of these two Funds to their congregations, the people, generally, will cheerfully respond. R.H.W.

At a banquet given by the retiring President of the Toronto Board of Trade, Mr. A. E. Ames, Premier Ross made an able speech, in which he pointed out that Canada's three great questions at present are, education of artisans in the production of first class products of all kinds, transportation, and addition to our population of a good class of citizens.

THE CRITIC'S CORNER.

Temperance Work and Temperance Workers.

No one can complain that the Temperance question does not receive sufficient publicity. If the important journals do not advocate prohibition, they, at least give sufficient prominence to the sayings and doings of Prohibitionists. One day we hear that the Temperance workers are about to interview Mr. Whitney, another that they are disappointed with Mr. Ross, and so on. One is tempted to believe that in connection with the temperance agitation, the political side of the movement is too much emphasised and the moral forces neglected, and that so the movement is growing on the outside out of proportion to its inside life. It is easy for a man to go round the country giving flaming speeches on moral reform, criticising in loud tones everything and everybody; to create a higher moral standard and nobler social life is a slow, strenuous process. Political agitation, also causing commotion among parties, is not hard to stir up; but to carry through a measure of reform that shall have some real stability, is not an easy matter. In the one case it is a display of sound upon the surface; in the other it is a real living process.

In England, a new act has just come into force and forms another of these many attempts to deal with this troublesome traffic. Later on I may be able to point out the changes made and the direction in which they are likely to work. At present it is enough to say that the general impression conveyed by them is that they are *individualistic*. I do not think that the bill goes very far in curbing or checking the traffic; but it gives heavier punishment to those who are guilty of excess and to those who encourage such excess. Here are two points: In this matter the British people believe in going slowly, very slowly. To use the sarcastic illustration of the Prohibitionists, having decided to cut off the dog's tail, they think it well to carry out the process an "inch at a time; and in the second place, they believe that personal responsibility must be cultivated at all costs. A bishop once declared that he would rather see England free than sober. I suppose he meant that the highest kind of sobriety is that which comes from inward self-restraint and not outside coercion.

In Canada the "Temperance party" cultivates the other side rather too exclusively. Temperance work means political agitation; interviewing Mr. Ross and Mr. Whitney, making strong statements in the pulpit, and in some cases slandering other workers, who do not come up to the required standard. We may be foolish, fastidious people, but some of us grow alarmed when we see the type of character produced by extreme prohibitionism; and we are reminded of the statement that it is possible to be drunk, but not with wine. We are sorry to see a good cause wounded in the house of his friends. Of all people in the world Temperance people ought to be sober. Our appeal must be to reason and conscience, as these when enlightened are the guides of the individual life, and without their support legal reform cannot have a moral basis.

Let us rejoice then that the work of real Temperance reform is manysided; that there are all kinds of workers and many forms of activity. The man who deals personally with the young men in his charge, may be quite as successful as the pulpit orator, who delights in fiery declamation. Those who quietly teach the young, and strengthen their spiritual life, are preparing for the new and

better generation. Every pure home is a gracious, helpful influence on the side of temperance and righteousness. It is not possible to sweep away all external temptation at one stroke; and if it were, there would still be need for the renewal of the inward man. Therefore, whatever may be our views on the political side of the question, let us not cease to use all the means within our power to set before our young people a high ideal of moral life, that they may learn to follow Jesus Christ as their teacher, in such a way that they shall carry within them the living force, which alone can make the character strong and noble.

VERAX.

A BOOK WORTH READING.*

Dr. Matheson's "Studies of the Portraits of Christ," awakened the hope that he would turn his attention to the study of Old Testament characters. It will give unalloyed delight to Biblical students to know, that there is a good prospect of this hope being realized. The first volume has already appeared and more is promised.

Here we find that rare combination of penetrating insight, poetic imagination, and eloquence, which have made him so widely known, as the poet-preacher of Edinburgh.

The characters included are taken as representatives of distinct aspects of life or incidents of experience. Dr. Matheson leads much further than is our wont, into the inner meaning of Scripture, and the unfolding of the divine purpose in human affairs. His rich resources of philosophic thought, his sound, historical knowledge, fine literary culture and deep inner experience are all in evidence here. The thought is fresh, original, strong and quickening. The reader is led along an untrodden pathway, delighted with new visions and inspired with deep devotion at every stage.

In this volume Dr. Matheson is at his best. He has given us many excellent things, but none more beautiful, enriching and inspiring than this.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The Rev. Dr. Warden acknowledges with cordial thanks, receipt of the following additional special contributions on behalf of this Fund:

Hon. R. H. Bronson, Ottawa.....	\$ 50 00
Mr. C. J. Booth, Ottawa.....	25 00
Mr. C. B. Frost, Smith Falls.....	100 00
Mr. F. T. Frost, Smith Falls.....	100 00
Mr. William Henrie, Hamilton.....	50 00
A Friend.....	50 00
J. A. Allen, Perth.....	15 00
Mr. and Mrs. W. Mortimer Clark, Toronto	250 00

Further contributions will be gratefully received.

The opening article in the January Canadian Good Housekeeping is on Sir William Van Horne, A Railway King at Home. Other articles of interest are: Chinese Women in America, Girl Housekeepers, At Madame Begue's, Baby's Christening Gifts and Music and Health. There are besides many pages devoted to cookery and other home interests. Dominion Phelps, Limited, Morang Building, Toronto.

* Representative Men of the Bible, By Rev. George Matheson, D.D. Cloth 8vo. gilt top, 360 pages. Price \$1.75. London, Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, Upper Canada Tract Society.