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# THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SEPTEMBER, 1894.

The view on the opposite page will attract the interested attention of our readers, not only to itself but to the article which it illustrates on page 247. Our esteemed editorial correspondent, Dr. Hodge, is taking his summer vacation in Europe, but he made seasonable provision for the pages in our magazine, which are reserved for the cause he represents, *Ministerial Education*. He makes those pages rich in information, and attractive with pictorial illustration.

—Our Christian Endeavorers will be glad to see the genial face of Dr. Clark on page 195 and to read the graphic account of the Cleveland Convention by Mr. Robinson. Nor have they had any wiser counsel than Dr. Hamlin gives in "The Young Christian at Prayer Meeting," p. 251, and Dr. Parker on p. 258.

—The "Outlook" for Home Missions is ably presented by Dr. McMillan (page 224), not shrinking from clear showing of the difficulties before us, but showing also the reasons for courageous determination. "No uncertain sound" from the trumpet—no tremor of timidity in its tone.

—The "Outlook" for Freedmen is given in like manner and spirit, by Dr. Cowan, page 242.

—Church Erection, Colleges and Academies, Ministerial Relief, and Publication and Sabbath-school Work have not been neglected

by the editorial correspondents having charge of those important branches of our Church's work.

—Mr. Grant's article on the International Missionary Union Conference was in type for our August number, but by an oversight of the Editor in making up that number, and much to his surprise, it was misplaced and omitted. But it has not lost its interest.

—The coming centenary of the London Missionary Society is set forth by Rev. James Johnston (page 198), in a manner sure to interest our readers. In the fair sisterhood of Missionary Societies, all of which "have done virtuously," it will probably be conceded that none have surpassed the London Missionary Society.

—The fact that Japan is at war with China with reference to their respective claims in Korea intensifies the interest of what our Editorial Correspondent for Foreign Missions has furnished for our August number and for this, in which will be found much information, well adapted to help our thought and our prayer. There is an old and sadly true saying, "Silent leges inter arma:" "*Leges are silent amid arms.*" If the din of arms tends to make our prayers silent, it does not tend to make them ineffectual. "The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

in behalf of this cause was never more needed than now. The number of families upon our roll has largely increased. The contributions from the churches have not increased with the growth of the Church and

the enlargement of our roll. The Board reported to the Assembly last May a deficit in the operations of the year of \$19,358. Thus far in the present year the situation is about the same.

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## FREEDMEN.

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### THE OUTLOOK.

Last year was, in the main, a prosperous year for our Board. We had at command more money than in any previous year of our history. We received from all sources \$194,610.15. This included an unusually large legacy that we came into possession of at the very beginning of our fiscal year. On the strength of this legacy we made plans for the expansion of our work. Before we realized what was in store for us, and the rest of the country, the financial crisis came, and only by a prompt change of plans of the Board, aided by the approval and hearty co-operation of those who were to bear the brunt of the disappointment, were we able to avert disaster and escape general and serious embarrassment. We recalled promises, cancelled engagements, annulled contracts and prepared ourselves for the worst. Our general line of policy was to stop every projected plan of improvement and extension that called for extra expenditure of money. This we carried out in all cases with but one exception. In the case referred to, the work was in such condition that the only course of economy was to go forward.

With these timely precautions we managed to get through the year with a reduction on our old debt of \$2,287.75. We were thankful to come out at the end of the year as well as we did.

Because of the comparative prosperity of last year, the impression seems to have prevailed that the Freedmen's Board, this year, stands in no special need. The contrary is the truth. Our debt, with which we began the year, has been embarrassing from the start. It has grown week by week, and month by month, until now—in the face of

what every one says is going to be a hard winter—its proportions are, to say the least, alarming. Few contributions come in from the churches through the summer and early fall. By the time we begin to get any relief our note in bank will be something like \$60,000. Although we have absolutely ceased for the time to expand and extend our work, what we have on hand cannot be abandoned or neglected. It must not be thought of for a moment.

The outlook, however, is anything but assuring. There is sure to be a great decrease in our legacies this year. Last year they amounted to about \$75,000. If we get half that amount this year it will be all that we can hope for. We can generally tell a year ahead what legacies will come to us, as executors usually take a year in which to settle up. We have not more than \$35,000 in sight from this source now. Possibly not that, as, since all securities are so depressed, it may pay us to wait awhile on the executors—and on the market.

Then come the other collections. Those from the churches fell off in amount about 10 per cent. last year, notwithstanding we had 256 more churches on the contributing list than the year before. A still greater falling off is feared this year. The other sources from which we receive aid—the Sabbath-schools, the Endeavor Societies, the Woman's Societies and individuals—may come to our relief. But we have this disadvantage, namely: the "Great Boards of the Church," as we sometimes call them, are both sorely pressed for money and are making all laudable effort to secure from these sources a marked increase in their last year's gifts. Shall not the Freedmen's Board also look

for an increase from these sources? Yes; but is not the Church at large in danger of expecting too much from these auxiliaries? They can help, but they cannot do all. By the time all the Boards that are in debt call in the women and the young people and the children to help them out, it is certain that the money from these sources, when divided up, will not be enough to go around. God bless the women, children and young people for what they have done, and for all that they are inclined to do; but, in this hour of distress and peril, is it not time for our *men* to come forward and give grandly of their substance to sustain missionary work of the Church to which they owe their all—and which they should love above their chief joy? Let the Endeavorers give their dollars; and the children their pennies. Their offerings surely will be well pleasing to Him who commended the widow for her mite; but, is it not time for you, oh ye Christian men of wealth, to come to the Church's relief, and to honor God with your substance, giving on the simple Scriptural rule—“*according as God hath prospered you?*”

1. Sometimes those who have no money say, well what can *we* do? Answer. You can lift up your voices and cry out for help. You can cry to the Lord—to Him who pleads the cause of the poor and needy. In this cry, if it be perchance in behalf of the Negro, you may know you are joined in prayer by this despised people for whom you pray. Their cry has long ago gone up to Heaven. They are a praying race. They learned to pray while in bondage. Their whole history has trained them to look to God. When there was no eye to pity, and no arm to save, they cried aloud and their cry was heard. They can now adopt the language of the hymn—

“Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
And He who brought me safe thus far  
Will safely lead me on.”

We believe, if we call on Him, God will surely help us in this great work of giving the gospel to these people.

2. But this crying out for help, which you can make, need not be to God alone.

To those who are willing to be co-workers with God you can cry in His name. Men hear the cry of the feeblest infant sometimes in its distress, and turn aside to give it help in its weakness. If it is naked they clothe it; if it is hungry they feed it; if it is thirsty they give it drink.

Perhaps your cry may be heard. Perhaps by it some generous heart may be touched; and so through your influence, even though you can give nothing yourself, you can induce others to give, and so they who need will receive.

If, in any way, by giving or getting others to give, you can minister to these lowly ones, in these straitened times, you may be sure in so noble a doing, your own path will be brighter; your own heart lighter; your own home sweeter.

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.”  
E. P. COWAN.

#### WHAT AN ELDER DID FOR THE FREEDMEN.

A letter recently came to our office, in Pittsburgh, containing a check which represented the amount contributed this year by one of our western churches to the Freedmen's cause. Accompanying the check was a letter from a member of the session of that church who stated that he had attended the meetings of the General Assembly this year, at Saratoga, and on becoming familiar with the work of our Board, and hearing the report of the Standing Committee, and the speeches that were made setting forth the nature of the work, he became greatly interested. When, on returning to his home, the time for the annual contribution to the Board of Missions for Freedmen came around, he made a special request of his pastor that he be allowed to say a few words. This request was readily granted—and the consequence was that this year the contribution from that church amounted to *five times as much as it did last year*.

I believe this little incident throws considerable light on the general subject of our benevolent contributions.