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BAPTIST UNION OF
GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND.

**TWENTIETH CENTURY
FUND.**

Recommendations of the Council

WITH

Explanatory Notes.

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..... — EXOD. xxxv. 22.

General Secretary—

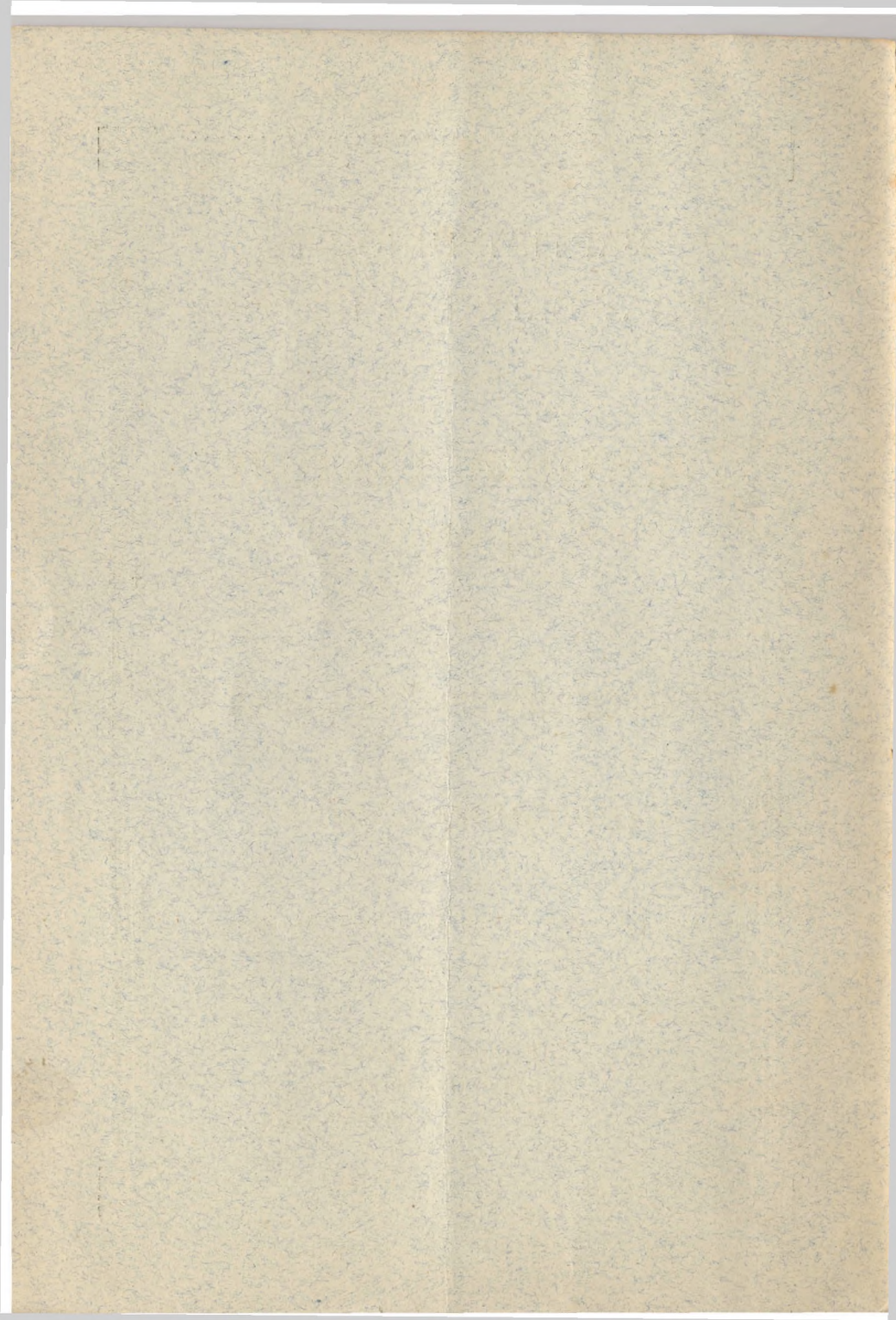
Rev. J. H. SHAKESPEARE, M.A.,
19, Furnival Street,
London, E.C.

1899.

S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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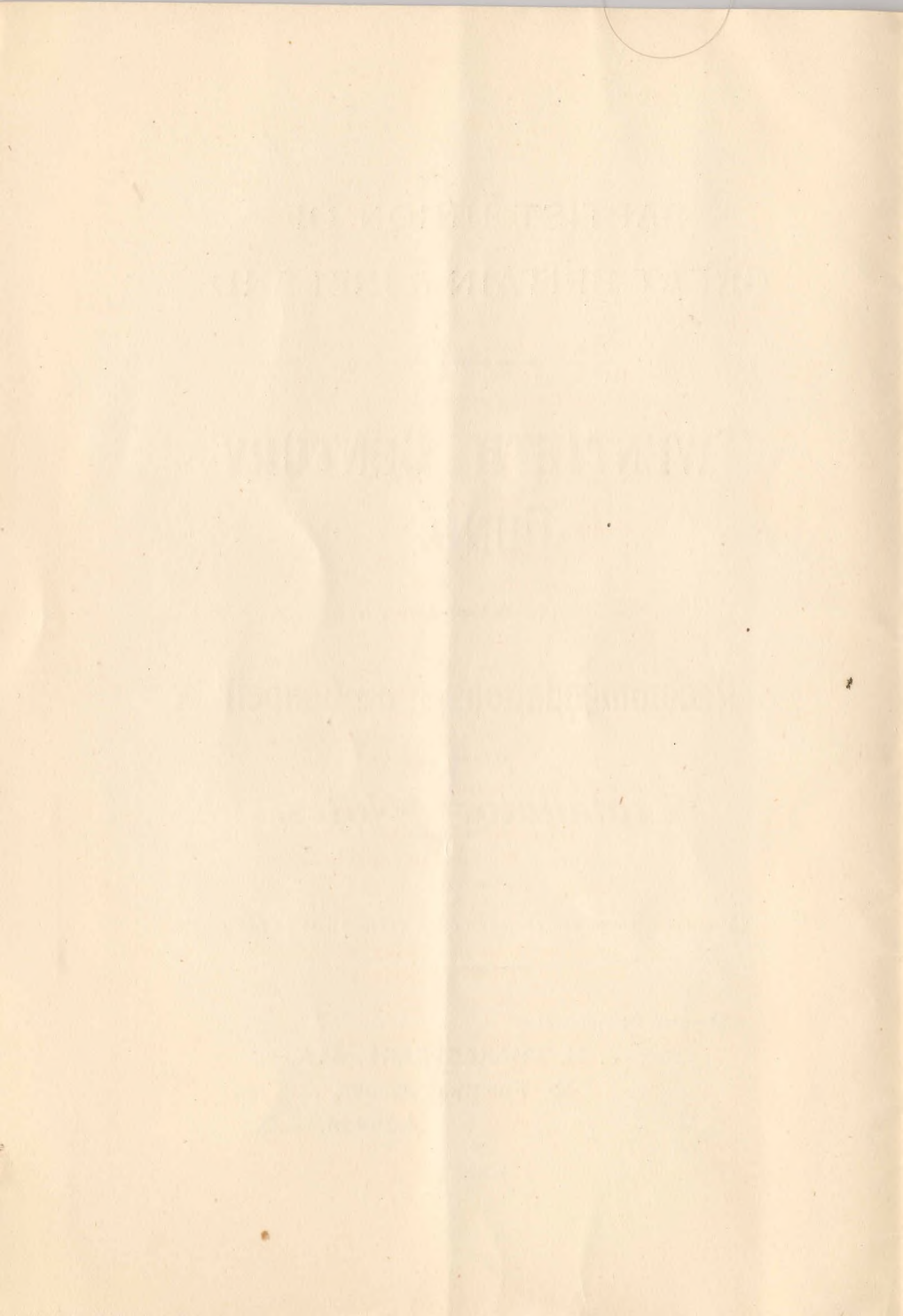
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BAPTIST UNION
Twentieth Century Fund.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

The proposal to form a BAPTIST UNION TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND was made in the first instance by the President, the Rev. Samuel Vincent, in his Presidential Address at Nottingham on September 28th, 1898, in the following terms:—

“How could our collective Christian Life express itself better than by asking our Saviour to lead us all, and, altogether, forward—to help us to celebrate gratefully the close of one great century, and hopefully the opening of another, perhaps greater still? There are hundreds of thousands of Baptists in these islands who never consciously gave a gift distinctly to advance the denomination as a whole. If we could get these Baptists, who may be generous Christians, to give once in their lives a gift of gold, not for their own localities, but for the country! If the gift were given in the last year of this century and the first year of the next. That minimum gift of gold—half a sovereign—would be but five shillings in each of the two years. Multitudes of the poor would pinch themselves—and bless themselves—to give us that. And the rich might cast in much—much even in His sight, who knows all. Is it incredible that for some well-considered scheme, and at such a time, the like of which will never return for

any one of us, that the rich might be moved by the Master to give their thousands, and every man something—the poorest, if possible—gold ? ”

The same day the General Purposes Committee referred the matter for consideration to a small sub-committee. A scheme was prepared and carefully considered at several meetings of the General Purposes Committee. On 18th January, 1899, it was brought before a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Council. Seventy-seven brethren were present, and, after a long discussion, in which there were differences of opinion as to details, but none as to the movement itself, the scheme as set forth in this pamphlet was moved from the chair, seconded by the Rev. J. R. Wood, and unanimously adopted.

It now remains to bring the whole scheme before the Assembly at its Spring Meetings, and this will be done in the following order :—

- (a) At the First Session of the Union at Bloomsbury Chapel, on Monday afternoon, April 24th, 1899, a resolution will be submitted to launch a Twentieth Century Fund to raise at least £250,000.
- (b) A public meeting will be held the same evening at the City Temple for the advocacy of the Fund. Henry Wood, Esq., J.P., of London, will preside, and the speakers will be Rev. R. Glover, D.D., Rev. J. G. Greenhough, M.A., George White, Esq., J.P., and Rev. J. Clifford, D.D.
- (c) At the Session of the Union on Thursday morning, April 27th, 1899, at Bloomsbury Chapel, the remaining recommendations of the Council as to the working and allocation of the Fund will be submitted to the Assembly.

The unanimity and enthusiasm which have so far marked all the proceedings, coupled with the numerous

and generous promises of support already received, warrant the belief that the blessing of our Lord and Master is with the movement, and that it will be brought to a successful issue.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the influence which our Ministers and Deacons may exert on behalf of the Fund. They may in their own churches explain the movement, work for it, and lift up the whole scale of giving by a generous initiative.

The Members of the Council are not launching a scheme which they are not prepared to support themselves. In response to the appeal, which has been made in the first instance to the Council, the President, Rev. S. Vincent, has promised £100, and the Vice-President, Rev. J. A. Spurgeon, D.D., LL.D., £500, and £5 for each of his children for the insertion of the name in the Historic Roll. When the full list is given we believe it will be found that all the Members, both ministers and laymen, are making sacrifices on behalf of the Fund. While the object of the Fund is to better equip the Denomination for the work of God at Home and abroad, in the twentieth century, by the provision of ample resources, it is earnestly hoped that some concerted measures will be taken to awaken the spiritual life of our churches, to intensify their consecration, and to bring before all our people the supreme necessity of prayer. God is able to crown our efforts with a great ingathering of souls by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

REASONS FOR FORMATION.

The Council have come to the unanimous decision that a great and united effort ought to be made with the opening century to strengthen and extend the work of our Denomination in this land. They are moved to this conclusion generally by the following considerations :—

A vast increase of population has taken place during the last fifty years, especially in the large towns of our country.

There has been no proportionate increase in the provision of places of worship and of means of fellowship by our Denomination.

Great masses of the people, though undoubtedly affected by the influences of all the Churches, still hold aloof from public worship.

There has come about in the Established Church an alarming and widespread declension, both in doctrine and practice, into Romish superstitions.

A prominent part must fall to our Denomination in the defence and advocacy of Reformation Truth, and in preserving for our country the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our fathers by their sufferings and testimony did this in their generation, and the call is equally urgent upon us to-day.

Above all, we strongly desire and pray that there should be in the midst of us a great revival of spiritual religion, such as would intensify conviction, faithfulness, and consecration, and this will be helped by the increased devotion of our substance to the cause of God.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL,

18TH JANUARY, 1899.

I.—That a special Fund be formed, to be called “THE BAPTIST UNION TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND,” to raise at least a quarter of a million pounds from half a million Baptists.

While the aim is to obtain ten shillings at least from each person, the Council earnestly appeal to all the members and adherents of the Denomination to contribute to the Fund to the full extent of their power.

The statistics for 1898 show the membership of our Churches to be 355,218, representing a Baptist community of about one million persons. It does not seem too much to ask that, during the years 1899 and 1900, five hundred thousand members and adherents should give an offering of gold to this Fund, *i.e.*, ten shillings each at least.

The minimum sum which will entitle the entry of the name either upon the Historic or the “In Memoriam” Roll has been fixed at ten shillings, with a view to bring it within the reach of our poorest members.

The payments may be spread over 1899, 1900 and 1901, and ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO COLLECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ONE PENNY WEEKLY, OR SIXPENCE MONTHLY, FROM ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO GIVE IN THIS FORM.

II.—That the Fund shall have three sections: (*a*) Historic section; (*b*) “In Memoriam” section; (*c*) Sunday-school section.

Under the Sunday-school section collecting cards will be supplied to those scholars who are willing to collect on behalf of the Fund. Every scholar in our Sunday-schools who collects ten shillings, at least, will receive a beautifully designed medal as a memento of the dawn of the Twentieth Century, and will also be entitled to the entry of his or her name on the Historic Roll.

III.—That a Historic Roll shall be prepared to contain the names (if possible inscribed by themselves) of all contributors and collectors of ten shillings and upwards. The Fund shall be opened and the Historic Roll begun on Sunday, May 7th, 1899, and the Roll be closed on March 31st, 1901, after which date no fresh names shall be received. That every minister in the denomination be requested to preach on the subject on Sunday, May 7th, 1899, and that an address be arranged for in the Sunday-school on the same day.

A section of the Historic Roll will be sent to each church for the enrolment of all those in that particular church, congregation and Sunday-school who give or get ten shillings at least. It is suggested that it will be valuable for historic purposes that the name of the minister and his family come first, followed by the names of the deacons and their families, and then by the names of all the members of the church and congregation and of the Sunday-school, for whom a gift of gold has been actually paid. We desire to make the Historic Roll a transcript of the Baptist Denomination—every man, woman and child—at the close of the century.

Fresh names will not be received for the Historic Roll after 31st March, 1901, but, the amounts promised may be paid up to 31st December, 1901. It is earnestly requested that no name may appear on the Historic Roll until ten shillings at least has been received, but lines may be left on the Roll for the insertion of names for each promise which has been made, in order that ultimately whole families may be inscribed together.

IV.—That friends shall be invited to contribute to the "In Memoriam" section in memory of their loved ones and of a Baptist ancestry. A special "In Memoriam" Roll shall be prepared to contain (with the consent of the donor), the names of all those who are thus commemorated, together with the names of those

who thus keep them in memory. All contributions shall be duly acknowledged, but no amounts shall be inserted either in the Historic, or in the "In Memoriam" Roll. Both the Historic and the "In Memoriam" Rolls shall be preserved among the historical documents at the Baptist Church House.

It will be a pious and beautiful act thus to commemorate our departed ones. We desire to unite both those who "wake" and those who "sleep" in this movement. Many of us owe everything under God to our parentage; and many of us remember that to our father and mother the Baptist Denomination was very dear. Some of us have lost children; we know that they live with God and they form with those who have been spared to us, one family. There are also many friends who have left our ranks, but who cherish a deep reverence for their Baptist ancestry.

A Section of the "In Memoriam" Roll will also be sent to each church. All those who inscribe their names in the Historic Roll should be asked if they wish to commemorate some departed loved one or some "Baptist Worthy" in the "In Memoriam" Roll. There are also many members of other churches who should be approached with a view to their commemorating their Baptist ancestry. All the Sections of the Rolls will be returned to the Baptist Union on 31st December, 1901, after which date no fresh names will be written in either Roll.

In order to illustrate the two Rolls we print a section of the Historic Roll with names which have been actually given, and also a section of the "In Memoriam" Roll with commemorations which have been actually promised.

SECTION OF THE HISTORIC ROLL.

Name.	Note (if any).	Address.	Church.
Albert Fitzgibbon Riley ...	Pastor ...	47, Whitehall Park, London, N.	Archway Road, Highgate.
Mary Elizabeth Riley ...	Wife ...	" " "	" " "
Isabel Hindson Riley ...	Children ...	" " "	" " "
Charles Fitzgibbon Riley ...			
Samuel J. Coxeter ...	Deacon ...	105, Southwood Lane, London, N.	" " "
Ada Emma Coxeter ...	Wife ...	" " "	" " "
Gertrude Marion Coxeter ...	Children ...	" " "	" " "
Constance Ada Coxeter ...			
Harold Macdonald Coxeter ...			
Ethel Agnes Scott Coxeter ...			

SECTION OF THE "IN MEMORIAM" ROLL.

In Memoriam.

NAME.	Born.	Died.	NOTE (IF ANY).	COMMEMORATED BY		
	Year.			Relationship (his or her).	Name.	Address.
John Bunyan	1628	1688	Author, Confessor, Pastor ...	Successor and Biographer	John Brown, D.D. ...	Bedford.
Andrew Fuller	1754	1815	First Secretary B.M.S., 1792	Successor ...	Alfred Henry Baynes ...	London.
Joseph Kinghorn	1766	1832	Pastor, St. Mary's, Norwich (43 years)	Church Mem- ber	Joseph De Carle Smith, J.P.	Norwich.
John Foster	1770	1843	Essayist	Disciple ...	Samuel Gosnell Green, D.D.	London.
John Hithersay	1782	1865	Village Pastor, Hunmanby and Kilham	Grandson ...	} John H. Shakespeare, M.A.	London.
Mary Ann Shakespeare	1825	1886	Daughter of Rev. John Hithersay	Son		
William Lepard Smith	1795	1869	Treasurer of Baptist Fund, Deacon at Camberwell and St. Albans	Daughter ...	Mary Esther Smith ...	Watford.
Ethel Mary Vincent	1869	1870		Father ...	Samuel Vincent ...	Plymouth.
Ethel Mary Vincent	1869	1870		Mother ...	Eliza May Vincent ...	Plymouth.

Benjamin Davies, D.D. ...	1814	1875	President, Stepney College ...	Pupil ...	Alexander Maclaren, D.D.	Manchester.
James Mursell ...	...	1829	1875	Pastor, Kettering, Bradford, and Newcastle-on-Tyne	Son ...	James Mursell ... London.
George Gould ...	...	1818	1882	Pastor, St. Mary's, Norwich (33 years)	Son ...	George Pearce Gould, M.A. London.
Joseph Parbery Chown ...	1821	1886	Pastor, Bradford (27 years), and Bloomsbury, London (10 years)	Widow ...	Elizabeth Chown ...	London.
Charles Stanford, D.D. ...	1823	1886	Pastor, Loughborough (2 years), Devizes (11), and Denmark Place (28)	Widow ...	Jane K. Stanford ...	London.
Thomas James Comber ...	1852	1887	Pioneer Congo Missionary ...	Friend and one of his Sunday Sch. Teachers	Henry Wood, J.P. ...	London.
Thomas George Rooke, B.A.	1838	1890	Pastor, Frome, and Principal, Rawdon College	Brother ...	Alfred Bradley Rooke ...	London.
Charles Haddon Spurgeon	1834	1892	First Pastor Metropolitan Tabernacle, Founder of Pastors' College and Stockwell Orphanage	Brother ...	James Archer Spurgeon, D.D., LL.D.	London.
Ann Kerry ...	...	1819	1894	Devoted Missionary, Calcutta (33 years)	Husband ...	George Kerry ... London.
Alice Elizabeth Whitley ...	1860	1894	Daughter of Rev. William Goodman, B.A.	Sister ...	Amy G. Shakespeare ...	London.
Ann Williams ...	...	1826	1898	Daughter of Thomas Baines, Leicester	Husband ...	Charles Williams ... Accrington.

V.—That the Fund shall be administered by a special Committee, subject to the control of the Council of the Baptist Union, to consist of the President, the Ex-Presidents and the Vice-president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, the Presidents of the Baptist Unions of Wales, Scotland and Ireland, the acting Treasurer (who shall be the Treasurer of the Baptist Union), the General Secretary (who shall be the Secretary of the Baptist Union), two other Treasurers, three Honorary Secretaries, and (to be elected annually by the Council) a Committee of thirty, of whom ten shall be ladies.

We recognize the immense power of women in this movement, and the value of their sympathy and aid, and on the National Committee we are setting an example to the Local Committees in every Church by including upon it some of the best known and most influential ladies in the Denomination.

ALLOCATION OF THE FUND.

VI.—That the Fund be allocated in the following ways :

£125,000 (i.) The Evangelization of our country
for and Church Extension in the Metropolis, in large towns and cities, and in smaller towns and villages where Baptists are not adequately represented, and where the religious need is not met by other Evangelical churches.

Under this head the Council take to themselves power to deal with the initiation of new causes, with evangelistic work, temperance work, and to render aid in the development of Sunday-school work. We must promote the representation of Baptist principles in the midst of our great populations, and, indeed, in every place, large or small, where there is need. Special attention will be

given to seaside and health resorts. It is hoped that we may be able to do something for Nurses' and Deaconesses' Homes. We shall probably purchase vans for Colportage and Evangelistic work in the rural districts.

[The separate appeal for Church Extension will cease with the launching of this Fund.]

£30,000 (2.) The assistance of the weaker
for Churches in the maintenance of their
pastors.

The whole question of the Augmentation Fund is under reconsideration with a view to reconstruction. Probably the issue will be the formation of a Sustentation Fund, of which the proposed grant will be a nucleus. It is felt by many Members of the Council that there should be a closer union between the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds.

£30,000 (3.) The Annuity Fund for aged ministers
for and the widows of ministers.

When the Annuity Fund was formed in 1875, it was expected that about 500 ministers would join the Fund. As a matter of fact it contains more than 700 Ministers as Beneficiary Members of whom 463 have also enrolled their wives. Unless something is done on a large scale at once the Annuities must go down with a run during the next ten years. Aged brethren who have been subscribers for years and are relying upon an annuity will find when they retire that their expectations will be disappointed. This is a catastrophe that must be averted.

£6,000 (4.) The establishment of Scholarships
for to be held at some seat of learning, open to
any students in our Colleges who intend to enter the
home ministry. It shall be distinctly provided that if
at any time a Baptist College is established at Oxford
or Cambridge, these Scholarships may be transferred
to it.

This is a modest subscription to the Colleges, but it will have the effect of promoting the higher education of the ministry, and will be a stimulus to our students.

Not exceeding
£34,000 (5.) The erection of a Baptist Church
for House.

The new Church House will be the Headquarters of the Denomination in London. It will have a frontage on the magnificent thoroughfare in the new Southampton Row, proposed by the London County Council. We hope to include under its hospitable roof every Baptist Institution which will come with us. We shall derive some annual income from the letting of such offices as will not be required for our own use.

£25,000 (6.) Educational and other objects,
for which, in the judgment of the Council, may appear to be desirable in the interests of the Denomination.

It is wise not to tie the hands of the Council so absolutely that they cannot deal with any grand opportunity which may arise during the next two years.

THE CENTURY FUND AND LOCAL SCHEMES.

VII.—That all the contributions must be placed at the full disposal of the Council in accordance with the general provision for the allocation of the Fund.

The abounding life of our Churches shows itself fruitful in new projects, renovations, enlargement of schoolrooms, new chapels, &c. We do not know any church which has not some special and heavy local claim, but we do ask our people to be magnanimous, unselfish and far-seeing, and for once, at this great epoch, to rally loyally round the denominational standard.

IRELAND.

VIII.—That the Committee shall devote to Ireland at least the full amount contributed from that country, for use within its own borders, after deducting the

proportion allocated in the Scheme to the Annuity Fund and the Church House.

The position of Ireland is in every way special, but we trust that both Wales and Scotland will fully unite in the formation of the Fund, from which of course both will receive very considerable help.

ORGANIZATION.

IX.—That the executive shall be instructed to prepare a general statement, leaflets, cards, collecting books, and all other necessary literature.

The Twentieth Century Fund can only be raised through a most extensive and careful organization. The democratic character of the movement must be strenuously maintained, viz. :—Ten shillings at least given or collected by every man, woman and child in the Denomination. Several of our ministers and leading laymen have already promised noble contributions. We earnestly appeal to all our friends to give with generous self-sacrifice, and to lift up the whole scale of giving in proportion to the magnitude of this effort—

(A) *To the Ministers—*

We ask them to preach on the subject of the duty of giving, on loyalty to the Denomination, and on the great opportunity which God has set before us. We ask them to take the lead and to guide their Churches in the working of the Fund.

(B) *To the Deacons—*

We appeal to them to throw their concentrated enthusiasm and business energy into this movement, and to set an example by generous giving. Such an opportunity will never occur again in the lifetime of any of us to help the common cause.

(C) *To the Sunday-school Officers and Teachers and the Committees of Christian Endeavour Societies—*

We ask them to master the details of the Fund, and to interest all our young people in its success. We earnestly appeal to Sunday-school Teachers to encourage

their Scholars, and especially the senior Scholars, to qualify for entry on the Historic Roll. If a Twentieth Century Fund Secretary is appointed in each class to receive weekly contributions, and if the Teacher will add a certain percentage, a whole class may easily be enrolled. We remind Teachers that a Scholar may give or get the ten shillings.

(D) *To the Committees of Christian Endeavour Societies—*

We trust that a Secretary will be appointed in each Society to collect weekly sums. We should rejoice if all the forty thousand Baptist Endeavourers were enrolled. It is proposed to specially enrol each Christian Endeavour Society (as a Society) for the payment of ten shillings or upwards, and we suggest that to this end, a Twentieth Century Fund Box should be placed on the table.

THE WORKING OF THE FUND IN EACH CHURCH.

We ask for the formation of a special Twentieth Century Fund Committee in each church. It should contain the Pastor and two or more Representatives from each of the following :—the Diaconate, the Church, the Congregation, the Christian Endeavour Society, and the Sunday-school, and it should include some earnest and influential ladies.

We attach the utmost importance to the selection of the Local Secretary in each church. He should be the ablest, most energetic, and most reliable layman in the church. He should be prepared to give some time to carrying out the details of the Fund. The sections of the Rolls will be placed entirely in his custody, and the keeping of the books will be entrusted to him. Sometimes, no doubt, it will be found best to appoint a lady to this office.

QUALIFICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE HISTORIC ROLL.

The fundamental principle of the Fund is a gift of gold from each person. We not only ask for the money, but also for 500,000 names. The Council direct that the names of the following persons may be inscribed on the Historic Roll—

- (1.) Any person who gives ten shillings at least.
- (2.) Any person who collects ten shillings at least.
- (3.) Any person who, being unable to contribute the required ten shillings, is nominated for entry on the Historic Roll by some friend who has made a contribution not appropriated to any other name.

It is thought that in every church there will be some who are very poor, perhaps dependent on the church's alms, who should be enrolled, and whom the wealthier members would be glad to nominate.

QUALIFICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE "IN MEMORIAM" ROLL.

Any person in memory of whom ten shillings at least has been contributed.

It will be seen that we have already received commemorations of departed loved ones by relations who cherish their memory, of former pastors who have gone to their reward but whose work abides in lives which, perhaps from the outset, were moulded by them, and of great Baptist teachers whose words have become the common heritage and treasure of the Church of Christ.

*Veale, Chifferiel & Co., Limited,
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Chancery Lane, London, E.C.*

