

questions sent, making twenty-five in the deanery. Of these, five are built of stone and eight wholly of brick or frame covered with brick. The remaining twelve are of wood, making nearly one-half constructed of the more perishable, if not the cheaper material, a matter, which, in the judgment of practical men admits of a question. Certainly a stone, or even a brick, church has a better and more substantial appearance to the eye than one of wood. The value of these churches, making a fair estimate of those not returned in the schedule which accompanies this report, exceeds the amount of forty thousand dollars. Thirteen parsonage houses are returned, valued at eighteen thousand five hundred dollars.

Of these churches *six*, and parsonage houses *four*, are returned as not insured. The subject of the insurance of church property is one of great importance, and the ruri-decanal Chapter has taken measures, (as recommended by a resolution of last synod,) which will have the effect, it is hoped, of producing a great improvement in this respect.

Among those questions which are connected with the temporalities of the church, that of the raising and punctual payment of such part of the stipends of the clergy as is derived from the people, is one of great importance. Whilst, in some cases, this obligation is punctually and honorably discharged, in others there can be no doubt there is a lack of that regularity and system in the management of this matter, which alone can insure confidence and good feeling between pastor and people. In this deanery, according to the returns of the present year, there are eight hundred and thirty-three families who identify themselves with the church, and two thousand and thirty-five dollars are returned as contributed by the missions towards the clergyman's support, being something less than two dollars and fifty cents per family.

Of this sum *ninety dollars* in one case arises from the rental of a glebe, and in two other cases intimation is given that the promises made have not been wholly redeemed.

A regulation was made at the last meeting of the ruri-decanal Chapter requiring the churchwardens to report to the rural dean within one month from Easter Monday, whether the stipend agreed to be paid towards the clergyman's support had been actually paid. This regulation, the rural dean regrets to state, has not been, in a single instance, complied with.

The question of local endowments, to be supplemented by the offerings of the people on the spot, made, from year to year, by voluntary subscription or offertory collection, is one which should undoubtedly command the serious attention of all who desire to see their church institutions placed upon a firm and permanent basis.

Turning from the temporalities of the church to the evidence presented