

payment of salary, they deal with them at once, and take measures to have these arrears immediately paid up by them, or have the aid which may be required to stimulate them furnished them from the Home Mission Fund.

"6. That Presbyteries further be enjoined, in the case of all defaulting congregations with which they have to deal, to satisfy themselves in the most particular manner regarding them, that they have each a regular and efficient congregational management, that their financial affairs are faithfully and diligently attended to, that the terms for payment of salary be definitely settled, and promptly attended to and that payment be made as frequently as possible, when salary is not paid in advance.

"7. With reference to means to be devised for the better support of the ministry amongst us, the committee beyond what they have already advanced, do not consider themselves in a position to make any further recommendations. They consider that any further regulations on this subject properly belong to arrangements connected with the Home Mission Committee; and they would content themselves with urging, that the supplementing of weak congregations shall always be made a special and very prominent work of the Home Mission committee, and that this committee make the most strenuous efforts to raise every salary to at least the minimum already fixed by the Synod, as the lowest that can be thought of with any tolerance, viz., \$600 per annum.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"T. STEVENSON, Convener."

With the view of carrying out the foregoing recommendations which were adopted by the Synod, the Committee referred to have prepared and issued the following circular to Presbyteries:

To the Clerk of the Presbytery of

SIR.—As the Committee appointed by Synod, to take steps to pay up the arrears of stipend due to ministers, are anxious to proceed as soon as possible to the task assigned them, it will be apparent at once that the committee will be wholly unable to effect anything without the prompt and energetic action and co-operation of the several Presbyteries; and the Committee submit the following suggestions to your Presbytery, trusting that the importance of the subject will secure a full and careful consideration by the Presbytery as soon as possible.

1. That your Presbytery shall, in every case, use every possible means to bring the defaulting congregations to meet their own arrears, so that no case should be thrown upon the committee, except those absolutely unable to meet their own obligations.

And it is suggested that each Presbytery should, by deputation or otherwise, examine minutely every case of arrears within their bounds, to see that the settlement of arrears is correct, to see that arrears do not arise from inefficient management, and to take all care that arrears do not accumulate.

2. As each congregation is clearly bound to bear its proper share of the burden, it is suggested to Presbyteries to consider how far they may safely arrange with congregations to bring up their arrears in instalments, as has been done in some cases, paying the current salaries of their ministers as they become due, and the arrears in one, two, or at most three equal yearly payments, as many congregations may prefer to do this rather than appeal for aid to make up for their own neglect. It is also suggested for Presbyteries to consider how far it would be advisable to employ the pastors of defaulting congregations in convenient missionary duty, for a short time, till the arrears are paid up. This course has been tried in certain cases, with no discomfort to the minister, and with most stimulating effect upon the congregations.

3. That Presbyteries should furnish the committee, before the first of September next, with certified lists of those congregations that positively must have aid, and the amount required, so that the committee may appeal, not for the willing to help the indolent, but for the strong to help the weak.