

congregation—a very large one—began with £40; omitting a year, and then came down to £20; and it is a singular circumstance, that there was just one congregation in the body that steadily augmented its contributions, rising from under £8 a year to nearly £30. Individual donations seem then to have been unknown, for there is only one donation recorded, and that was one of £2 2s. by “a young lady of Ayr;” and there is only one person during all these fourteen years who, when arranging worldly affairs, appears to have thought of the claims of Christ’s cause, and that too, to the honour of the sex be it said, was a woman, a “Barbara Maclellan of Wigtown.” who left a legacy of £20 8s., paid apparently in four instalments.

And what did that Church do in regard to Home Missions and the support of weak congregations? There was then no Foreign Mission to divert the attention and the liberality of the people from the claims of the needy and the destitute around them. Surely they would give abundantly for the relief of their suffering brethren. It was not so. Those that do not feel for the wretched abroad, seldom feel for the necessitous at home. We have said that the average income was £328 12s. a year; and of this sum they had to pay to the Professor of Theology, who had no congregational charge, a salary of £200. It is obvious, therefore, that, after paying the salary and defraying other necessary Synodical expenses, there remained very little for aiding weak and struggling congregations. The average number of aided congregations was nine; and the average sum allocated was £81, being £9 to each congregation. During one year fifteen congregations received assistance; and the following note is added: “All the above congregations are few in numbers and weak in their circumstances, and would have required far greater assistance than the Synod had it in their power to afford.” And what was the rate of the growth of the Church? That corresponded to its liberality, for in fourteen years, at a time when there was ample room for expansion in Scotland, there were only nine congregations added, the number in 1808 being 136, whilst in 1820 it was 145.

2. *The contributions of eighty-one of the same congregations in the period of Missions.*—We have said that the number of congregations under the inspection of the Antiburgher Synod in 1820 was 145. That was the year in which the union was effected between the Burgher and the Antiburgher Synods, which formed the United Secession Church. A few of the congregations declined to go into the union; several have since ceased to exist; and so far as we have been able to ascertain, there are now in the Church 116 of these congregations. We have looked over the contributions to the Synod, as reported in the *April Record* for the year 1859; and we find that, of these 116 congregations, 112 contributed to the funds, leaving only four congregations that did not give anything. This is the first important fact that indicates progress under the missionary principle. Before missions began, 58 out of 135, or more than one-third, were blanks; whereas, in the period of missions, only 4 out of 116, or the 29th part are non-contributors. But the second fact, or the increased rate of contribution, is far more important as a proof of progress. To show this, we shall take 81 of the same congregations—namely, those that belonged to the Antiburgher Synod—and state what they contributed to the funds in 1858. Well, it appears from the *Record* for April 1859, that 81 of the same congregations raised in 1858, for Synodical purposes, the sum of £3612 10s. 3d., being an average to each congregation of £44 12s., or eleven times the amount that was contributed before missions began. This is a difference so palpable, that, as has been said, even the blind might feel it; and with such a fact standing out in bold relief before the Church, surely there is no minister who wishes his congregation to prosper, that will hesitate to press warmly on his people the claims of Foreign Missions. And it is a pleasing but not an unexpected coincidence, that it is the congregation which, as already stated, alone in olden times increased its contributions, that now stands at the head of these 81 congregations, having given, in 1858, £590 10s. 10½d., or nearly double what the entire Antiburgher Synod raised. The truth is, it is the missionary spirit diffused