

for these is 5s 7d, or 6½d less than the average in the sister Church.

"The contrast is remarkable chiefly in showing the enormous difference between the contributions for all purpose in the two Churches. Even when we grant to the utmost the allowances to be made for an Established Church which is necessarily always a 'residuary Church,' containing many careless and very many poor, and which is not forced to keep up services which would otherwise cease to exist, we cannot but think that what is done in the United Presbyterian Church shows that what we give for others is much too little. Though much of what they give is given to promote their own edification, it is yet given ungrudgingly for religious ends. As we have not the same necessity to give, we need not wonder that we do not give as much for congregational purposes as they do; but it is surely discreditable to us that we give, in proportion, for all purposes little more than a fourth of what they give. We may well argue that if they who have to contribute so much for the support of their own religious ordinances give so much for missions, we, who have not the same burdens to bear, ought to give a great deal more. It says little for us that we give in proportion a little less than they do. It looks as if we were not using our endowments enough in the way in which we can best use them—in making us more able to do good to others.

After these frank admissions the *Record* proceeds to show the contributions of 64 "prosperous congregations" of the Established Church, taken as a sample. These are some of the largest and most influential in the body:

"One congregation, the Barony, Glasgow, gave at the rate of more than 1s. for each collection from each communicant.—Four congregations gave at the rate of less than 1s. and more than 6d. Nine gave at a rate of less than 6d. and more than 3d. Eighteen gave at a rate of less than 1½d. and more than a ½d. Fourteen gave at the rate of less than ½d.

"It thus appears that in one-half of these 64 congregations the average contributions from a communicant for each collection was less, and in some cases very considerably less than 1½d.

"The results of our inquiries of the return of collections for all purposes made in the same way was as follows:—Two congregations gave at a rate of upwards of £2 for each communicant in Greenside. Eight congregations gave at a rate of £1 and less than £2. Fourteen congregations gave at a rate of less than £1 and more than 10s.

Fifteen congregations gave at a rate of less than 10s. and more than 5s. Twenty congregations gave at a rate of less than 5s.

"When we consider how much is included under collections for all purposes, and especially when we remember what large sums for seat rents must be taken in many of these congregations; and when we further consider what, as we observed before, is given in the United Presbyterian Church, we must confess that the analysis of this sample of our congregations goes far to prove that the Church's contributions are inadequate, not merely for the schemes, but for all purposes.

"This surely needs a remedy as much as any other evil in the Church. We are told that 'a great future' is before the Church but we can picture no great future in which there is not a great improvement in the realization of the great law of Christian philanthropy. Our present condition seems to indicate a want of spiritual life, or a want of enlightenment in regard to the means of doing good. We can hardly realize rightly instructed Christians not giving of the substance for the spread of the kingdom of Him to whom they owe so much, according as God hath prospered them."

We quote these facts mainly for the purpose of suggesting to our own congregations the inquiry, How much do you give annually? If your gifts and offerings are to be measured and weighed by a scrutiny infinitely more searching than that of a human eye, how do you stand? God will judge us not by what others give, but by the way we ourselves give in proportion to our ability. This, the opening month of the year, is a very appropriate time to consider the past and prepare for the future.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.

[ADAPTED.]

Recently three ministers met in a past study, and of course the conversation turned upon the condition and demands of neighboring Churches. There was in a vacant pulpit to be filled. The name of a minister had been suggested for the place. "Let us look at the record of his past year's work," said one, taking up the Statistical Tables. "He is in a good strong church," he continued, "and a goodly accession has been made to it during the year, both by profession and certificate; but, tut, the dollar has been given to some of the