

liberality—but in the great majority of cases nothing has been done at all; and, as a necessary result, our new ministers must cease to enjoy the benefits which all our ministers have enjoyed for years. We would earnestly entreat both ministers and congregations that have hitherto stood aloof from this scheme and done nothing for it to make an effort now, and so strengthen the hands of the Board of Managers as to enable them still to continue the benefits of the Scheme to every minister and congregation. The new congregations are those most in need of aid, and it is they unfortunately who will be the sufferers. Our wealthy and long settled congregations surely have a duty to discharge towards their less fortunate brethren, and we trust that they will no longer neglect it.

CONGREGATIONS OF BEAUHARNOIS AND MARTINTOWN—ANNUAL REPORTS.

We have received printed copies of the reports for the past year of the managers and sessions of the Congregations of Beauharnois and Martintown. It is pleasing to see the office-bearers of these congregations continuing this plan of giving an account of their stewardship, and we accept their doing so as an evidence that they find the system works well. It is a simple and satisfactory method of keeping a congregation posted up in the knowledge of its own affairs, an object which we deem of the greatest importance.

We like to think of a congregation as a religious corporation consisting of a given number of members and adherents associated together in a particular locality for the attainment of the highest ends affecting the well-being of the community to which they belong. Adopting this view of the case, we can conceive nothing so obviously right and just as the putting of a report of the kind now before us into the hands of each constituent. It is an example which the Church is too slow in taking from the secular societies which everywhere exist. It saves a great deal of trouble, prevents misunderstandings and suspicions, and effectually removes many of the disadvantages of ignorance. It sustains a becoming interest in the condition and undertakings of the body corporate, and cannot fail to have the effect of provoking to good works. Any member of either of the congregations above mentioned must be fastidious indeed if he is not thoroughly satisfied with the informa-

tion he receives, and, if there be anything to complain of, the report which is put into his hands and the next annual meeting furnish the means of demanding a remedy.

We earnestly recommend the plan for general adoption. The ministers of Beauharnois and Martintown, if applied to, will, we are sure, be glad to furnish copies of their reports for the direction of others. Were it the prevailing practice to issue annually such reports and send copies to all the ministers within the bounds of the Synod for the information of their respective office-bearers, we think an incalculable amount of good would result to the Church at large. Printed in the same neat manner as those before us, they could be preserved along with the Synod Minutes, and would form a most valuable record for reference, supplying at almost no expense the desideratum for which it was attempted to provide by the Synod's Statistical Scheme, now, we fear, fallen through. But, whatever may be thought of this suggestion, we trust that many bodies of our office-bearers will soon see it to be both their duty and interest to furnish their congregations with printed reports. The cost of a sufficient number for our largest congregations—supposing them to be similar to those before us (4 pages)—is only a few dollars, and we are confident the managers who spend that sum in this way find it to be one of their most remunerative disbursements.

We are glad to notice in both reports now on our table many evidences of good and prosperous management in the congregations from which they emanate. There must be large hearts and willing hands in the small congregation of Beauharnois. The strength of the congregation in numbers may be learned from the fact reported, that 124 sittings are let. Yet \$811.25 is the sum raised for church purposes, and there is not one cent of arrears.

Since writing the above a report, similar to the 2 noticed in the foregoing remarks, has reached us from Hemmingford, from which we are glad to learn that a marked improvement has been effected in the activity and support of the members of the congregation there, and we doubt not this is owing in a measure to the publication and circulation of a like report last year.

S.S.