

Kemp mean that these Synods are to carry on the Home Mission operations without reference to Presbyteries? Then indeed will the Mission work be taken out of the hands of Presbyteries with a vengeance. If the Synods are to operate through the Presbyteries then we have three or four central committees instead of one,—each Presbytery sending up “elaborate statistics” to the Synod under which it is placed, and each Synod sending up these statistics again to the General Assembly. Here we have “machinery, complicated and heavy machinery.” If the present machinery is as Mr. Kemp alleges, complicated, cumbersome and difficult, then his proposed plan will increase these evils four or five fold.

Mr. Kemp's scheme would still throw the heaviest burden of the Mission work on those least able to bear it, and cut off the feebler Synods from the resources of those who are more numerous and wealthy. The Synod has already decided very emphatically against Mission Districts, and the Church is perfectly satisfied with the results of the Central Committees's operations so far as they have yet gone. Were the Synod to adopt Mr. K.'s scheme, it would cripple the energies of the Church and arrest its progress.

This perhaps is the proper place to notice that Mr. Kemp evidently confounds the Home Mission Committee, with the Committee for the distribution of Preachers. They are entirely distinct. It may perhaps be suggested here that a change is desirable in the mode of distributing probationers, and that it would be well that they should be sent to the Presbyteries for longer periods, and that care should be taken not to put them to unnecessary travel and expense. This, however, has nothing whatever to do with the Home Mission operations.

It is impossible to say of Mr. Kemp's pamphlet that the half is greater than the whole. The whole is mischievous in its tendency, incorrect in its statements, fallacious in its reasonings, and unsound in its conclusions. It is surprising that a man of his practical sagacity failed to see that there is a mistake in almost every paragraph he has written.

The Church would have welcomed his pamphlet, had he dealt with the all important question of the insufficient supply of ministers and missionaries. Unhappily it is calculated both to prevent probationers from coming to us from the parent Churches, and to deter our own young men from studying for the ministry of the Church. There were by last returns 43 vacancies and only 11 probationers. There are 132 Mission Stations connected with our Home Mission operations, and our supply of laborers for this field is even more inadequate than in the case of the vacancies. All branches of the Church of Christ in Britain, endowed and unendowed, are constrained to acknowledge that one of the great barriers to their progress is the want of ministers. The Presbyteries in Scotland are earnestly discussing remedial measures. It is imperatively demanded of the Church here to take decisive steps with a view of increasing the number of candidates for the ministry. It has already occupied the attention of our Church Courts, but more united, earnest effort is required. Ministers should seek out pious and talented young men in their congregations, and encourage them to go on to the work of the ministry; parents should gladly devote their most pious and talented sons to the same noble work; and encouragement should be given to deserving young men, by increasing the number of bursaries. It is pleasant to agree with Mr. Kemp in one point, where he urges the people to greater liberality in the matter of stipend. The social status of ministers must be raised by increasing the average emolument. Nor must the higher motives to the ministry be lost sight of. Let a strong tide of living piety roll in upon the Church, and in spite of all discouragements, our young men will be found devoting themselves to the noblest work in which men can engage. Our ministers and people must be stirred up to more earnest prayer that the Lord would send forth laborers into His harvest.

DAVID INGLIS.

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