

ng, than weekly storing, which is really the essence of the system, for no matter how widely scattered a people may be, no matter how frequently they are detained from the house of God, or how great the scarcity of their gold and silver at certain seasons, if they have been led to perceive the spirituality of the duty, and its importance as a means of grace, they can and will make their preparations from week to week, and when they receive their income put the whole amount into the Treasury of the Lord just as they would pay any other honest debt.

But your Committee would direct special attention to the fact that this objection is urged by those, and by those only, who have not made the experiment. All the reports which have been received from the Sessions of strictly rural congregations which have adopted your suggestions are favourable.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Committee would suggest, therefore, that before the scheme be declared to be unsuitable to country congregations, the experiment be fairly and fully tried. They do not press a hasty adoption of the system. They do not wish to have it imposed upon any congregation before it is fully prepared for its adoption. But they do urge to a constant effort on the part of all to prepare the way for its speedy and universal acceptance. They suggest that those in favour of your recommendations in any of our congregations should begin and carry on an agitation of the question by discussing its merits with those who are more doubtful. They recommend that parents should teach their children the duty, and train them to its practice; that Sabbath School Teachers endeavour to introduce weekly offerings into their classes; that ministers should preach upon the subject; and that in those instances in which pastors shrink from doing so lest their motives should be misunderstood, their congregations, or bodies of managers, or sessions invite them to treat the subject in their public ministrations. In this way a process of preparation would be in constant progress, and when a large majority in any congregation become persuaded of the efficiency of the system, and are determined to give it an earnest trial, that congregation wherever it is located will be in a position to adopt your recommendations without fear of failure. Upon the whole, your Committee are more and more impressed with the necessity of urging the practice of weekly storing upon every person connected with our church. While our statistics continue to tell the tale which they do tell, while they testify that of the 130 congregations connected with the Synod only a little over one-third have reached or exceeded the minimum suggested by Synod

a number of years ago as the salary of her ministers, that about 45 contribute for the same purpose \$500 or less, of which some 20 fall below \$400 and a few do not raise even \$200; while they proclaim to the world, as they have done this year, that only 45 congregations have contributed to all the schemes of the church, that 39 have made no collection for our Supplementary Fund, that an equal number have done nothing for our Education Scheme, that 30 have ignored the claims of the Day-spring, and 22 those of the Synod Fund, that 19 have not contributed to the Home Mission, and 13 have made no effort to extend the Gospel among the heathen, your Committee feel that the most earnest efforts should be made to press upon every one a constant attention to this most important duty. And then too, when they think of the great world with its masses of ignorance, superstitions and sin, when they remember that ample provision has been made in the atonement of Christ, and in the work of the Holy Spirit for human Salvation, when they consider that the commission of the Great Head of the Church requires her to preach the Gospel to every creature, and that the only valid plea for not fulfilling it is inability, when they reflect upon the fact that in our own day and almost within the memory of living men, by far the greater part of the world has been providentially opened for the reception of the Gospel, when they consider that millions upon millions of property have been placed in the hands of professing Christians by the Great Proprietor of the Universe, just that they might expend it freely upon this work, they feel themselves constrained to urge by every consideration a prompt, cheerful, and universal adoption of the great New Testament rule of Church Finance. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by Him in store as God has prospered Him."

STEWARDSHIP.

Nor can your Committee express their convictions upon this subject more tersely or powerfully than in the language of a most elaborate and able article in a recent No. of the *Princeton Review*. The writer says, "The fundamental requisite to the full enforcement of the Divine Claim is a more complete, general, constant, and forcible exhibition of the Scripture doctrine of the Stewardship of the church under Christ the Absolute Owner of all things. In the full and correct conception and reception of this truth is laid that solid formation of principle in its application to the use of property without which there may indeed be impulsive spasmodic distribution but never the intelligent, systematic, liberal and dutiful Christian giving which the word of God evidently contemplates. We have to do