

satisfactory or sufficient to meet the necessary spiritual wants of their people.

The attendance at Synod, considering the excited state of the country, evinces a warm interest in its proceedings, embracing, as it does, 150 ministers and 76 elders.

The attention of the various Presbyteries is respectfully called to those congregations, which have not forwarded Returns, that they may be dealt with or their neglect.

From a careful examination of the Statistical Returns, your Committee are enabled to present the following general view of the Church's outward aspects.

There are seen about 600 sacred edifices of all sizes and forms, dotting the surface of the country from Metis to Sarnia, and within whose walls divine worship is celebrated from week to week, by about 240 messengers of the Cross. To them is entrusted the pastoral oversight of about 25000 households and upwards of 41000 communicants, along with the superintendence of the religious instruction of nearly 30,000 young persons. The regular visitation of those numerous families, and of the sick and aged, the oversight of about 400 week-day meetings, and the providing of spiritual food for the thousands that wait on their ministry, comprise a series of daily and arduous labors, the burden and care of which are well nigh overwhelming. In these trying and varied duties, they are aided by the prayers, sympathy and co-operation of between 1,500 and 2,000 elders, of between 10,000 and 12,000 other office-bearers, and of a large and zealous body of Sabbath School Teachers.

What amount of spiritual good may result from these diversified and multiplied labors, is only known to the Great Head of the Church, under whose guidance and dependence on whose blessing, it becomes us to sow in hope and labor in hope.

The improved financial state of the Church, as indicated by the Returns, calls for special thanks to the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift.

The liberality of the people having been stimulated by the great material prosperity of the country, the contributions for religious objects have been so largely increased, that the gross aggregate amount, on the face of the Returns, nearly reaches \$275,000. There are even ample grounds for concluding that with full Reports from each congregation, the whole amount would exceed \$300,000,—the largest sum ever raised by our Church,—and plainly indicating the growth of more generous and liberal feelings, throughout the bounds of our Zion. The Returns, when compared and examined, shew an average contribution from each communicant of \$7 50, being the largest ever reached by us, and putting us in this respect, in advance of the Churches in this land or in the old country.

As might have been expected, the improved material condition of the land has more or less benefited the various Synodical schemes. But, while not overlooking them, it is gratifying to find that the most important financial branch—the Stipend Fund, has been most liberally dealt with, and exhibits an increase of over \$20,000. At the same time, general congregational interests have not been neglected, from the fact of the contributions for Church purposes shewing an augmentation of more than \$10,000. Using round numbers the College Fund presents an increase of about \$60., the Home Mission of about \$3,000, the Foreign Mission of more than \$700, and the Synodical of about \$40., while the gross contributions from all sources exceed those of last year by nearly \$50,000. The only drawback to this pleasing statement is a decrease of nearly \$200, in the Widows' and Orphans', and Aged Ministers' Fund. This result, however much to be deplored, may be traced, not to any diminished interest in these important schemes, but to the termination of the special effort so successfully made by the late United Presbyterian Church.

The increase in the College Fund, though small is encouraging, since it has been produced, not so much as formerly, by special efforts, put forth by a few