THE STATISTICS OF THE CHURCH.

Having had occasion to examine somewhat carefully the statistics of our church as contained in the Oct. No. of the Record, it occurred to me that it might prove both interesting and profitable to present some of the facts which they supply in a shape somewhat different from that in which they are presented in the tables. What follows will explain itself, and I need premise nothing further, except, perhaps, the remark that for the sake of convenience in comparison I have reduced the sams contributed by the churches in Scotland and in the West Indies to Nova Scotia currency. Of course it is assumed that our statistical tables are accurate:

6 30 } for 1865 U.P.C. Scotland, 1864 6 33 " U. P. M. C. Jam., 1864 Trini lad, 1864 3 50 " 22 46 0 291 " F. M. of P.C.L.P. 1865 44 1864 $0.37\frac{2}{3}$ " Re. P.C.Scot. 1864 0 60 " Free C. " 1864 " U. P. C. " 1864 H. M. P. C. L. P, 1864 " 0 50 ٤. 0 55 0 18 1865 0 20

The feelings excited in every thoughtful mind by a careful consideration of these statistics will be deep and varied. In the first place there will be a cling of pleasure that the tide of liberality in the church is gradually rising. It ought to be a source of thanksgiving that for all the religious and benevolent schemes of the church the contributions for 1865 exceed those for the preceding year by upwards of \$3000. It is a pleasing fact too, that the amount contributed per member for the above mentioned purposes by our own church for 1865 is within two-and-a-half cents of that contributed per member for 1864 by the U. P. Church of Scotland for similar objects. On the other hand it is worthy of notice that it is not even one-third as much as that put into the Master's treasury by the U. P. Mission Churches of Trinidad .-Again, it is rather a humiliating fact that our contributions towards the Foreign Mission for 1864 were not even two thirds as large per member as those of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland with which we are so happily associated in the New Hebrides, while still worse those for 1865 do not amount to half as much.

Again, all that we have been doing for the spread of the gospel in Nova Scotia

beyond its support in the congregations with which we are respectively connected is by a contribution of twenty cents per annum per member for 1865, and of eighteen cents for 1864. Now do these facts look like as if we were thoroughly in earnest? Are they consistent with the profession that "we are not our own but bought with a price." Do they indicate that we are presenting our bodies "a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service?" I think not. To my mind they fully vindicate the propriety of our spending a day during the week of prayer in pleading on behalf of the Christian Church, "that its testimony may be clearer, its faith stronger, and its devotedness, liberality and zeal greatly enlarged." But perhaps some may say, "If we are not doing a great deal we are at least doing all we can. Were this the ease it would of course be entirely satisfactory but there is great reason to fear that it is not so. We have 10,323 families in connection with our church. Now supposing that the average income of each of these families were \$400 per annum which I think is a sufficiently moderate estimate. Let us suppose further that a tenth part of the sum were devoted to God's service. The church would then have an annual revenue of \$412,920 or nearly six times as much as at present. Or to put the matter in a somewhat different form, if the average income of each of our families be \$400, instead of tithing, we contribute annually a sixtieth part of this income. And now, I ask, does this warrant the supposition that we are giving as God has prospered us? I leave the answer to the consciences of the members of the church.

I commend these facts to the prayerful consideration of our people with the hope that such consideration will lead many to determine to adopt the Scripture method of furnishing the treasury of the Lord, viz: by laving by them in store on the first day of the week as God has prospered them.—CORRESPONDENT.

Presbytery of Pictou

The Presbytery of Picton met in John Knox's Church, Picton, on Tuesday, 9th Jan. The principal business before the court was the disposal of the call from the congregation of Lochaber and Goshen to the Rev. Alexander Ross of Picton.—Commissioners from both congregations were heard at length, when Mr. Ross made a statement to the Presbytery. He referred to his labours in Picton, the difficulties surmounted, and the encouraging indications of the presence of the great Head of the clurch with them where he was. He had therefore strongly dissuaded