

Presbyterian ideas, no Session or Presbytery has a right to come between the Supreme Court and any congregation under its charge; no Session has a right to say—"we don't think it advisable to make this Synodical collection, and therefore we shall not afford the congregations an opportunity;" and every Session doing this is, in my opinion, guilty of a breach of ordination engagements. The congregation may choose to give merely a cent or a yolk shilling, but that is for it, *by its actual doing*, to determine, not the Session or managers. In the same way a Presbytery that, virtually, brings the pressure of its influence to divert Synodical collections from Synodical purposes, is deserving of rebuke, and would be rebuked at the bar of the Synod, if matters were in a healthy working order. I am quite ready to give it as my opinion that our Synodical collections are *by far* too many at present; and that their very number is their ruin; but that is a matter which all members of Synod, who feel aggrieved, should seek, in a constitutional way, to rectify, while in the meantime, they work the present system to the best of their ability.

Your published accounts are very interesting, but at the same time somewhat painfully suggestive documents. Very wisely you give the blanks as well as the occupied spaces, and the former are fully as much instructive as the latter. Your headings, of course, have all reference to what has been ordered by the Synod,—the Synod to which all ministers and elders have promised all due subjection in the Lord. Now, Mr. Editor, is it not rather strange that so far as I have been able to observe, there is not a single congregation in the church against whose name there is not at least *one* blank. I may be mistaken, but I have not been able to discover *one* which has complied with all the requirements of the Synod. With your leave, I may by-and-bye analyze the contents of the "Statement of the moneys received," as a whole; in the mean time just let us look at the "Home Mission Fund." Right or wrong, the Synod ordered a collection to be made for that Fund in all the congregations and preaching stations under its jurisdiction, with the alternative of a contribution from the Congregational Missionary Society, if such were in existence. That was agreed to, and no dissent was either expressed or marked. What is the result? Your statement supplies the answer, and a very painful one it is. In the first place we have five Presbyteries, viz: Montreal, Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston, and Huron, with an aggregate of *ninety-nine* congregations entirely blank. Not a single copper has been by any one congregation in those Presbyteries contributed to this particular Synodical purpose; while "Grants" to the extent of \$255 have been paid to them, and even then only *three-fourths* of what they have "claimed." The Presbytery of London with *thirty-three* congregations, has contributed \$5, while to that Presbytery \$200 (two hundred dollars) have been paid. In the Presbytery of Cobourg two congregations out of 14 have sent \$15 17. In the Presbytery of Hamilton two congregations out of 33 have sent \$18 70. In the Presbytery of Guelph three congregations out of 17 have sent \$26 10. In the Presbytery of Toronto eleven congregations out of 33 have sent \$120 78. In the Presbytery of Paris five congregations out of 20 have sent \$82 86. In the Presbytery of Stratford five congregations out of 19 have sent \$118 00. In the Presbytery of Grey two congregations out of 21 have sent \$50 85. In the Presbytery of Ontario ten congregations out of 20 have sent \$209 74.

Comment is unnecessary. Let me just crave your leave to tabularize this precious exhibition, that it may be seen at a glance how much respect the congregations of the Canada Presbyterian Church give to the orders of the Canada Presbyterian Synod. Your readers will bear in mind that I have nothing to do with the Appendices. Any sums mentioned in them will naturally appear in the "Statement" of next year:—