

to believe this a proof that no very great evils exist in the matter submitted to the consideration of the Committee. But this, the Committee are well aware, is not the case; and the silence of so many ministers can be accounted for on other grounds. No doubt to many the information required might seem of too private and personal a nature, and easily capable of being used in a manner that would be injudicious and offensive. No doubt, to many it would appear that the exertions of the Committee were unlikely to be attended with much advantage. Add to these considerations, the very general inattention and indifference in respect of the orders of the Synod, manifested by its members; and it is easy to account for the imperfect returns which have been received. These returns the Committee will hand over to their successors; and they trust that by further enquiry, complete information may yet be obtained.

In the meantime, the Committee submit the following observations.

It is, in their judgment, in the highest degree desirable that the Synod, and every individual minister, should distinctly keep in view, how and whence it is that the support of ministers in this Church is to be obtained. It is by the working of the voluntary principle—understanding that expression in its correct sense. It is from the voluntary liberality of the people. Whether it were better otherwise, is a different matter. Such is the case, and it is necessary to keep it steadily in mind.

Among the manifold evils which proceeded from the protracted discussions of the Clergy Reserve question, it was not the least, that the prospect of a successful settlement of it held up to many a delusive expectation of such