

three dollars, not including the wealthier city charges. One congregation with nearly one hundred families gave only eleven dollars to all the schemes of the church. Another with over a hundred gave eighteen dollars, and still another with one hundred families twenty eight dollars, another with 150 families, fifteen dollars, and another with over a hundred two dollars.

Looking into another column we would be better pleased if we found more blanks. *Twenty one* congregations report arrears due their pastor to the amount of \$5532, and we have reason to believe that more than these are in the same unhappy condition.

From the statistics as well as answers to circulars it is evident that there is great room for improvement.

As to how this shall be accomplished we have many suggestions, such as:—

"Faithful teaching, Bible principles and methods from the pulpit."

"Keeping the people well informed on the work of the church, and getting all to take and read the Record."

"Making monthly or quarterly statements to the congregation."

"Printing annual reports and circulating them among the members of the congregation."

"Systematic, faithful, wise, patient, persevering, dealing with delinquents."

"Working vigorously and systematically whatever method is adopted."

All of which your committee cordially endorse.

But we wish to specially emphasize one or two suggestions;

1. That whatever plan is adopted it can not dispense with constant instruction as to Bible teaching on the principles of church giving and constant keeping the people informed on the operations of our Boards and the Church's work in the world. Without this motive power the best machinery will be comparatively useless.

2. That the best methods will not run themselves except to run down. The system may be ever so good but it will not work itself. We must all remember that nothing good can be got or kept in this world without unwearying watchfulness and work. The better the method is theoretically, and the nearer perfection it is scripturally, the more worthy it is of hard persevering systematic effort to make it a suc-

cess. Good methods in some congregations have been pronounced a failure because they would not run themselves.

It must be remembered that in introducing any new method however perfect or practical it may be it has to meet with old habits, prejudices and misapprehensions, antagonisms of all kinds. These are the stones that have to be removed and it takes time and labor and patience to do that.

In conclusion your committee submit for enthusiastic adoption the doctrine "*that weekly proportionate storing joined with weekly worshipful offering would be the perfection of Church finance,*" and venture to hope that every member of this Synod will lend his influence to urge into wider and wider practice this gospel method, until every Sabbath worshipper shall bring an offering proportioned as God has prospered him; that every minister will preach this doctrine from the pulpit and from house to house until every one is taught that he should be honest with God; that every elder will carry back into his session and congregation the determination to agitate until the way is opened up for every individual to devote his offering every Sabbath day, and every one is taught to realize and respond to the duty and privilege of Systematic devotion of substance to God. If this is done, we are no enthusiasts if we say, that our schemes will be borne on a higher tide of liberality without danger of foundering on the rock of debt. The channels will be full and our church will go on constantly increasing in power and success doing better its part in the work of evangelizing the world.

With the hope of enkindling new enthusiasm, awakening new interest, and engaging new effort, we once more unfurl our banner with its three fold motto.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."

"Bring an offering and come into my Courts."

"Bring ye all the tithes into my Store-house and prove me now herewith if I will not pour you out a blessing until there be not room enough to receive."

RECOMMENDATIONS

adopted by Synod.

1. That all the members of our Church be earnestly advised to adopt *proportionate giving and weekly storing* as a principle of their Christian Stewardship.