

made a matter of conscience, an end to be planned for in the family, that all of a capable age should frequent the place where God recordeth His name.

Absentees from church expect to be visited ; and some-times complain that the minister and elders do not go to look after them, even though they had no sufficient reason for absence. That is to say, they neglect their own duty and then blame other people for not doing theirs. There is no doubt it would be a good thing if absentees could be visited during the week and asked to account for their absence on Sunday. But it would take the whole time of the Session throughout the week to do this,—day and night. Elders cannot attempt this, for they are all busy men, who have the duties of their calling, and their offices to their own families, to attend to. There is a way however in which the evils of absence may in a measure be cured. First, let none remain at home, when they ought to be in the house of God. Secondly, let every one who knows of them, help to bring the absentees to church. Thirdly, let all be ready to give information to the minister and elders of any cases of sickness or other good reason for absence ; and then I will guarantee that they will be duly visited.

And as our congregation has now numbers enough to make up a large audience at every diet of worship, if the people made a conscience of their duty, it has financial strength enough to enable it to get along comfortably and pay its own way, provided all will do their part. The results of the experiment for five years in our new situation has made this abundantly plain. The running expenses of the church, and even the interest on the debt can be easily raised, if all our people will only give what assistance they can. This is what our plan of weekly offerings presupposes. In order to its success, however, every one is expected to act from conviction and with deliberation,—to make his giving a matter of conscience. What is done must not be grudgingly or of necessity :—"God loveth a cheerful giver." The weekly offering is for the maintenance of our own church in all its departments ; and all should carefully calculate what they are able to give to this object.

But in addition, christian people are expected to help the spread of the gospel far and wide. Personally we live not for ourselves, but for the welfare of those about us and the glory of God ; and so the church does not exist merely for furthering the welfare of its members, important an end though that is,—but also as an agency for giving the glad tidings to those that possess them not. Our missionary societies aim

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