

Guelph. Ottawa, Ontario and Huron Presbyteries are nearly complete, while those of Cobourg, Grey, and Toronto are incomplete in two instances, Hamilton and Montreal in three, and, last of all, London, in five.

About one half of these cases consists of recently-settled charges,—an unknown quantity which must every year affect the fulness of the Returns, in proportion to the number of annual pastoral settlements.

Your Committee regret again to call attention to the small increase in the number of settled charges, only amounting to five throughout the year. An examination of the Returns shews, that there has been a decrease of settled charges from Kingston eastward, which has been only counterbalanced by the increase from Cobourg westward. In view, therefore, of the numerous vacant congregations and the pressing demand for efficient labourers in the Lord's vineyard, there is an earnest call addressed to our young men to devote themselves to His service, instead of to secular and more lucrative worldly occupations.

It has been deemed advisable to include in the Returns the number of families in each congregation, chiefly for two reasons. In not a few charges, especially where the Gaelic element prevails, the number of Communicants presents but a defective view of the state and size of the Congregation, and, besides, prevents the Church from being able to deal with such, in a proper manner, in regard to the duty of christian liberality. It is to be hoped, that, next year, the Returns under this head, will be more complete.

In regard to Communicants, those admitted by Certificate and by Examination have been separated, and the instructive fact elicited that the youth of our Church are not giving themselves, by public profession, to the Lord, so numerous as is desirable. It may thus be worthy of inquiry, whether or not suitable and sufficient means are used, by office-bearers and others, to impress upon the baptized children of the Church, their duties, responsibilities, and privileges. In spite, however, of the many difficulties, connected with the maintenance of our ecclesiastical position and scriptural principles, in the midst of a mixed, and heterogeneous population, it is pleasing to mark progress and prosperity, in the gross increase, during the year, of about 1500 Communicants.

The several changes that have occurred, among both ministers and members, present the sad fact, that the angel of death has been visiting the courts of our Zion, and setting forcibly before us the uncertain and transitory character of all earthly things.

It is to be feared, that several office-bearers still neglect the duty of keeping a Baptismal Register,—neglect that may hereafter entail trouble on many families—attention is accordingly again called to the subject. Your Committee do not require to make any remarks on the columns referring to the young, as the Sabbath School Committee have already anticipated all that might have been said. It is somewhat discouraging to note a decrease in the number of week-day meetings, a decrease which, it is believed, does not indicate a growing spiritual torpor, but is only transient and temporary.

The staff of elders and office-bearers appears to keep pace with the Church's progress, and their aid and co-operation, as fellow-workers in the Gospel cause, are useful and necessary, for its efficiency and prosperity.

Nearly 600 places of worship throughout our Church have the truth proclaimed within their walls, by less than 240 pastors,—and thus shew, that the scattered state of our people demands a wide diffusion of ministerial labors, and prevents the various congregations from being so compact and so capable of pastoral oversight as is desirable. For this reason the greater portion of the ministers are constrained to divide their labors between two or more separate congregations, and to render their work less efficient by the more extensive area over which it is diffused. It is of the utmost importance, that each Congregation should enjoy the entire and undivided ministrations of a pastor; and until this stage of progress be reached, the energies of ministers must be overtaxed, their days prematurely shortened, and their labors prove far from

satisfactory or people.

The attendance evinces a warm interest and 76 elders.

The attention of congregations, which is due to their neglect.

From a careful examination enabled to present aspects.

There are seen on the surface of the community worship is celebrated. Cross. To them holds and upward the religious instruction of those numbers about 400 week-day thousands that wait labors, the burden trying and varied relation of between office-bearers, and

What amount of applied labors, is only guidance and dependence and labor in hope.

The improved financial calls for special thank good and perfect

The liberality of prosperity of the community largely increased, the returns, nearly reaching that with full Report exceed \$300,000,—the rate the growth of our Zion. The contribution from us, and putting in or in the old country

As might have been has more or less been overlooking them, in branch—the Stipend increase of over \$20, have not been neglected poses shewing an augmented the College Fund present about \$3,000, the Fund about \$40, while the year by nearly \$50,000 decrease of nearly \$20,000 Fund. This result, however, diminished interest in special effort so successful

The increase in the been produced, not so