

the stipends of ministers were presented, and fully discussed. The result was the adoption of the following resolutions.

1. "That Presbyteries be enjoined to visit by deputation, or otherwise, all the congregations within their bounds, which they have reason to think, are not doing their duty towards the support of their pastors, and see that an efficient system of raising funds for this purpose is brought into operation.

2. "That the Synod strongly recommend,

(1.) "That in Cities and Towns, weekly or monthly offerings be introduced, and that the contributions thus given for the salary of the minister be taken up along with the usual Sabbath collections.

(2.) "That in County districts, collectors be appointed to call upon the people, at their homes, monthly or quarterly, as may be deemed most suitable for the locality, and that great care be taken that these calls are made with punctuality.

(3.) "That in the congregations, where it is still deemed necessary to continue the system of pew rents, care be taken that they are collected regularly, and that arrears are not suffered to accumulate.

3. "That the Presbyteries be enjoined to see that missionary associations are formed in all the congregations within their bounds, except when they have good reason to believe that the present system is producing equal pecuniary results.

4. "That wherever missionary associations are formed, the Synodical collections shall not be imperative, provided a contribution be given by said association for the objects of said collections.

5. "That Presbyteries be instructed to see that contributions for all the missionary and other general schemes of the church, are taken regularly in all the mission stations within their bounds.

6. "That a small committee be appointed to prepare, for general circulation throughout the church, a statement, explaining more fully the suggestions of the above resolutions, in so far as they relate to the duties of congregations, and also containing such other information as may be deemed necessary for the practical guidance of congregations.

To Presbyteries it belongs to carry out the first, third, fourth, and fifth of these resolutions. In accordance with the last, the present circular is prepared, with special reference to the mode of contributing to the stipends of ministers by weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments.

It may be proper, at the outset, to state some facts which shew the necessity of improvement in congregational contributions. According to the Financial report presented to the Synod of 1865, *fifty seven*, or *more than one fourth* of the ministers of congregations reporting, received less than \$450 with, or \$500 without a manse as the annual stipend of each. The stipend of about twelve ministers did not exceed \$300 each. These amounts are evidently inadequate to the support of ministers and their families, and the payment of travelling expenses, not to speak of contributions to religious and charitable purposes, and a fair provision against sickness and old age. Some ministers received \$600, \$700, or \$800; but not a few of these needed to add a fourth from other sources to their amounts, to meet their ordinary expenses. Several ministers also, in towns and cities, who received upwards of \$1000, found it equally necessary to add a fourth to the amount received from their congregation, in order to live in a simply comfortable and respectable manner.

According to the Financial report presented at the last meeting of Synod,