

whose guidance and dependence on whose blessing, it becomes us to sow in hope and labor in hope.

The improved financial state of the Church, as indicated by the Returns, calls for special thanks to the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift.

The liberality of the people having been stimulated by the great material prosperity of the country, the contributions for religious objects have been so largely increased, that the gross aggregate amount, on the face of the Returns, nearly reaches \$275,000. There are even ample grounds for concluding that with full Reports from each congregation, the whole amount would exceed \$300,000,—the largest sum ever raised by our Church,—and plainly indicating the growth of more generous and liberal feelings, throughout the bounds of our Zion. The Returns when compared and examined, shew an average contribution from each communicant of \$7 50, being the largest ever reached by us, and putting us in this respect, in advance of the Churches in this land or in the old country.

As might have been expected, the improved material condition of the land has more or less benefited the various synodical schemes. But, while not overlooking them, it is gratifying to find that the most important financial branch—the Stipend Fund, has been most liberally dealt with and exhibits an increase of over \$20,000. At the same time general congregational interests have not been neglected, from the fact of the contributions for Church purposes shewing an augmentation of more than \$10,000. Using round numbers, the College Fund presents an increase of about \$60., the Home Mission of about \$3,000, the Foreign Mission of more than \$700, and the Synodical of about \$40., while the gross contributions from all sources exceed those of last year by nearly \$50,000. The only drawback to this pleasing statement is a decrease of nearly \$200, in the Widows' and Orphans', and aged Ministers' Fund, This result however much to be deplored, may be traced, not to any diminished interest in these important schemes, but to the termination of the special effort so successfully made by the late United Presbyterian Church.

The increase in the College Fund, though small is encouraging, since it has been produced, not so much as formerly, by special efforts, put forth by a few leading congregations, as by the more general and extensive support tendered to it by the Church at large. It is cause for deep regret, that 28 settled charges are reported as not contributing towards the maintenance of our Collegiate Institution. One fourth of these belongs to the Brockville Presbytery, while the remaining three fourths are scattered over the other Presbyteries.

The income of the Home Mission seems largely augmented and approaches \$10,000. Were all its sources of revenue added up, the amount would be doubled. This pleasing result is due partly to the continually growing interest in this able important scheme, and partly to the more faithful carrying out of the injunctions of Synod, respecting the formation of congregational Missionary Associations.

Notwithstanding the large increase of the Stipend Fund and the great reduction of arrears in many cases, yet owing to the more numerous Returns of this year, and the great amounts due by several congregations, the arrears reported are somewhat larger than those of last year, being \$9984 49 against \$9504 55, an increase of \$479 94. These discouraging lists are found in every Presbytery, except that of Paris, to the large number of 54, and exactly one-half consists of sums exceeding \$100.