

SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—The number of congregations connected with our church which are adopting the recommendations of the Synod concerning Systematic Beneficence is rapidly increasing. From all quarters information is reaching the Committee which is well fitted to cheer the hearts of those who believe that the Spirit of inspiration has taught that Christian giving is worship, and that as a part of public as well as private worship it ought conscientiously to be attended to "on the first day of every week."

In order, however, that the general movement which seems to be sweeping over the church may be permanent and thoroughly successful, it is absolutely necessary that our members and adherents should understand clearly the principle including the practice which they are so extensively adopting. Otherwise there is great danger that the change will issue in failure, and so hinder rather than promote the progress of the movement. Now as it is impossible for ministers in every case to give the subject that prominence in their public ministrations which its importance demands, it is necessary for those who are eager for the promotion of the good cause, to avail themselves of the press as well as of the pulpit in the propagation of their views. In doing so, they are only endeavouring to give effect to the resolution adopted by the Synod at its last meeting, when a recommendation was issued "to Sessions and Boards of Managers to endeavour to circulate extensively throughout our congregations tracts and other literature bearing upon the subject."

My object, therefore, at present is to draw attention through the columns of the *Record* to the fact that Sessions and Managers can supply themselves with any requisite amount of literature of this description at a very reasonable rate, through the agency of the British American Book and Tract Society, in Halifax. Besides the Ulster Prize Essays, which are bound in a neat volume of 400 pages, entitled "Gold and the Gospel," and sold for 50 cents, there are such tracts as "Storing for God and Giving to God," "The Weekly Offering," "Ways and Means to Support Divine Worship," to be had at a cost of 20 cents per hundred; "Christian Beneficence," "The Certainty of Weekly Offering," "Weekly Offering Quarterly Record" and "Biblical Catechism on the Dedication of Property," at 57 cents; and "Uncle Ben's Bag, How it is never empty," which is perhaps the best of the whole series, at the rate of \$1.30 per hundred.

There can be no doubt that if Sessions and Managers would circulate such publi-

cations extensively among the people, they would do much to facilitate the transition from the stereotyped methods of the past, to the freer and more spontaneous giving, which is required alike by Scripture precept and the increased and increasing demands made upon the Christian generosity of the present. Indeed, any private member who is persuaded that the church is entering upon a more excellent way could hardly aid her more effectively than by purchasing and distributing among his friends and fellow worshippers such tracts as those which have been referred to.

In concluding this letter I embrace the opportunity of inviting correspondence on the part of the Treasurers or Secretaries of those congregations which have adopted the system. If such officers would be so kind as to communicate to the Secretary of the Committee on Systematic Beneficence the result of the experiment so far, in the congregation with which they are connected, whether these results have been favourable or unfavourable, they would oblige the Committee and enable them to present a reliable report to the Synod at its next meeting. Information respecting the various methods which have been employed in introducing the system into their respective congregations as well as considering the principal difficulties encountered will also be gladly welcomed.

E. A. MCCURDY,
Sec. Com. Sys. Ben.

New Glasgow, Jan 19th, 1872.

* THE RECORD.

To say that it should be in the hands of every family, and here we mean family in the widest sense of the term, is saying nothing that is either new or startling. There is no hindrance in the way of expense; it is one of the cheapest magazines we know. The literature that is circulated in our bounds is not large or varied, and were it ten times as extensive as it is, it ought not to stand, and in the nature of things would not stand, in the way of our own organ. The more intelligent our people will be so much the more eagerly will they crave for the news that the *Record* furnishes, and so much the more liberally and loyally will they support the schemes and institutions of their Church. We do not understand how it is that it is not taken in every family. In the number for this month we are presented with some figures of vast interest.