

the labours of faithful ministers was great; therefore their efforts to realize the reasonable expectations of the brethren have been unremitted.

Meeting after meeting of your committee has been held, to ascertain if any means of forwarding the object of the co-operation had been discovered, and still the question "what can be done" has been left unsolved, your committee still continuing to hope that at their next meeting something more encouraging would be developed. So earnest was the desire that the contributions of the brethren should be profitably employed, that it was considered expedient to appropriate them in aid of the Grande Ligne Mission or "the Bible union," rather than allow them to remain idle in the Treasury, but all such suggestions were overruled, on the ground that the funds of the Churches should be held sacred to the special object for which they were contributed.

Realizing in years past, the difficulty of procuring acceptable ministers to travel and labor as desired by the churches, your committee in their last annual report, suggested to the brethren the propriety of revising the present system of employing Evangelists, with the view to ascertain whether or not it was practicable to adopt a more efficient and scriptural method. The subject was too large and important to be disposed of by the brethren in the few hours at their command at the annual meeting, and was therefore postponed to a more CONVENIENT SEASON. Again the subject was brought to notice in the pages of the "Christian Banner" and again left untouched.

In the absence therefore of further instructions, your committee realized it to be their duty to execute to the extent of their ability, the previously understood wishes of the brotherhood. After an earnest and faithful endeavour for a period of three years to carry into successful practice the views of the co-operation, your committee conclude that it is now due to themselves, and to the cause of Christ to state, that they find those views to be impracticable to secure the many and great advantages which a general co-operation of the Churches seemed to promise, your committee having perseveringly struggled to overcome the obstacles with which they have been beset. But experience has fully satisfied them that a farther attempt on their part to carry out the system hitherto pursued might only as heretofore prove unsuccessful. Already the feeling is gaining ground, that it is better for each brother to appropriate his contributions to the Lord's cause with his own hands, than to forward them to those who cannot employ them, and it is reasonable to conclude that unless some more practicable and acceptable system of expending the collected funds of brethren be adopted, this feeling will increase until union or co-operation be esteemed of little value.

Under these circumstances your committee would briefly refer to the principal difficulties, which have prevented them from accomplishing that amount of good they desired, viz: 1st, The extent and diversity of labor rendered it difficult to obtain laborers that would be useful and acceptable in all places. 2nd, The system of employing laborers for a limited time and then leaving them to resume their secular callings. 3rd, The extent of country to be hastily travelled