8 elders for every settled pastor, and one elder for every 13 families and 23 communicants. 6th. The decrease in the number of baptisms is noteworthy. How can it be accounted for ? Only one year since the Union was the number of baptisms so small as last year. In 1887, 3,566 baptisms were reported. Why should they not increase with the increase of families and communicants ? 7th. The proportion of scholars in our Sunday Schools to families has improved a little. It was as 1.25 to 1 in 1876 and 1886, and as 1.43 to 1 in 1896. Possibly, the Y. P. S. C. E. has helped the Sunday School during the last few years— but there is much yet to be done in the way of caring for the spiritual welfare of the young. Parental responsibility is great— but it is the duty of the *Church* also to see that the lambs of the flock are fed with " the sincere milk of the Word." 8th. In the foregoing statistics no account is taken of our mission stations. If *they* were included the totals given would be a good deal larger. Dr. Morrison's exhaustive article in the last THEOLOGUE gave all the information necessary regarding the working of our mission stations.

Coming to finances the following figures are noteworthy. To every true Presbyterian they should be far from dry and uninteresting. They should inspire every member of the church with increased gratitude, zeal and hope The thought of standing still now should enter no one's head. " Forward " should be the motto of all.

	1876.	1886.	1896.
Stipend paid..................	$104,613	$121,229	$171,723
Arrears	7,591	5,634	1,711
Total for Congregational purposes.	168,866	241,288	287,191
" Schemes...............	21,068	32,582	51,344
" All purposes	200,679	286,460	357,529
" Colleges	2,398	2,396	4,086
" Home Missions	4,863	4,457	11,232
" Augmentation.........	3,936	9,029	7,917
" Foreign Missions.......	6,296	12,137	21,801

These figures speak for themselves. The decrease in the amount of arrears due our ministers is gratifying. The increasing liberality of our people will be still more clearly seen if we