

belongs to a family of high repute in the Church. His father was a minister, and his nearest relatives are ministers or elders of the Church. He himself is an universal favourite, and wherever he goes is recognized as a man entitled to speak with authority. Two years ago he visited Charlottetown, and attended a S. S. Convention there. All who were there can testify, that after the first day he was looked to as the leading spirit of the Convention. Dr. Bell would also be invaluable to us because of the interest he takes in all the work of the Church.

We have little doubt that the Colonial Committee will offer the appointment to Dr. Bell, and, should he accept it, the whole church may congratulate itself on having such a representative in the Divinity Hall.

• CONGREGATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

It is really astonishing to find how large a proportion of the churches of Christendom are managed with a careless regard to results beyond those of a financial character. A considerable amount of aimless, indefinite, unreal, sort of duty is performed, year in and year out; but after all, what is there to show for it? It would almost seem that many congregations had lost, or had never known, the true idea of their existence, or felt the force of the command of the Master, to occupy till He come. An ordinary business-man would be very much distrusted did he permit his annual accounts to be as carelessly overlooked, or fail to take stock and adjust his balances at the expiration of the year. But, numbers of churches seldom take a retrospect of the spiritual work that has been accomplished, and even frequently fail to find out their material progress definitely. We do not need to go beyond our own borders for a verification of this fact, for the truth is plain to every reader of ecclesiastical intelligence. With ourselves, the deficiency is more apparent, perhaps, at the meeting of Synod than at any other time, when the Report of the Statistical Committee is called for, which,—if one can be prepared from the materials received

—usually presents as large a number of blanks as anything else. And how often that Court has asked for answers to certain questions in vain, the Convener of the Committee can best tell. As to the spiritual condition of the congregations, we find the Committee on Christian Life and Work reporting, that returns to their queries were received from nearly *one-half* of the ministers occupying charges in the church, viz., five from the six in Halifax Presbytery; seven from the thirteen in Pictou; two from the four in P. E. Island; *not one* from the four in St. John; one from the three in Restigouche; and one from the four in Miramichi. We fail to see how work conducted in so vague and unsystematic a manner can be productive either of encouragement to the minister or congregation, or benefit to the community. Or, if it is done, why is the intelligence withheld from the church? Very few of our congregations publish an annual Report for distribution among the people, which would supply the details of all these matters; and, if such is not deemed advisable, why cannot an annual statement be given to the *Record*, which would thus reach, at least, a large number of the families?

We are inclined to think that this deficiency arises largely from the fact that too much detailed work devolves upon the minister himself, which it is impossible for him to overtake. People are too apt to think that the whole burden of working the machinery of a congregation belongs to him, and that they have but to fold their hands in listless inactivity. Such an idea of the ministry is an erroneous one. His work is of a higher character. His is to guide and instruct in spiritual things especially, while his people should largely control and manage the temporal. The Apostle Paul thought it was "not reason that he should leave the Word of God and serve tables," and authorized and afterwards sanctioned the choice of certain people of the church to do that work, and consequently the church prospered, the Word of God increased, the number of the disciples multiplied, and a great company were obedient to the faith. We are aware that a faithful Eldership can do much; but a small Session, composed of men whose daily occupations neces-