

be enlarged. Some weak congregations should get more aid, the college should be better equipped, more men should be sent to the Foreign Field, islands, in the South seas where a few years since there was no opening are now asking for missionaries.

3. That to accomplish these ends and attain more nearly the ideal of our duty there should be a more wide spread and intelligent interest in the work of the church.

4. That sessions and especially ministers are largely responsible for the degree of interest that may be felt on these matters throughout the Church, for where the work of the different schemes is clearly and faithfully set forth, Christian people will always respond more or less liberally.

5. That any revival in this direction must begin with elders and ministers especially the latter.

6. That the best human agency to accomplish the end is by discussion of the schemes in church courts, where all may learn what each knows and all be stimulated by what each feels. How it deepens ones interest to hear any live subject warmly discussed at a public meeting, Iron sharpneth iron.

7. That the Agencies through which the work of the church is for the most part accomplished are the committees on College, Home Missions, Supplementing, and Foreign Missions, whose reports are given in the following pages.

8. Therefore the way in which the church on the one hand and the church's work on the other, can be most completely brought into contact is by having these reports submitted to all our ministers and as many elders as possible and by having these ministers and elders discuss the work done and the best ways and means of doing more.

We have two church courts in which these could be submitted and discussed. Our Synod, where all our ministers and an elder from each congregation have seats; and the General Assembly when one fourth of the ministers directly interested in supporting our funds, and an equal number of elders have seats and where taking last Assembly as an example, but one half of this fourth or one eighth of our Synod, were present.

If then these reports be submitted and discussed in Synod, we bring the church's work into contact with the whole Eastern Section of the church, into contact with all the ministers, and an elder from every congregation. If the reports be taken past the Synod, to Assembly, and discussed there, the work of our Eastern Section is brought into contact with at most but one fourth of those supporting our schemes.

When our Eastern schemes are discussed at Synod all are directly inter-

ested in them, and all who are there, are directly interested. When those schemes are discussed in General Assembly, but one fourth of those directly interested, and who will stir up their congregations to contribute to them are there, and only about one fourth of those who are there, are directly interested in them.

Since the Union of 1875 little has been left for our Synod to do. Its meetings usually last but two days. Matters of lesser moment only come before it and unless some matter has been specially referred to the Synod by some of the committees their reports are submitted to the Assembly and there discussed.

The effect of such a practice is that some at least of the one fourth, think it scarce worth going to Synod as they are going to Assembly; some of the three fourths, think the same thing, because there is so little to do at Synod and those who do attend, meet and separate, knowing and caring little more about the work of the church than when they came, for the great work of the church has scarcely been before them.

Taking as an example the docket of business submitted to last Synod and printed in the Maritime Presbyterian for June there was not the slightest reference to any of the schemes so far as the discussion of ways and means was concerned. Any thing that was said or done regarding them came up indirectly and not as the regular work of the court.

If these reports were all submitted to Synod and taken up as part of its business, there would be something to do to encourage members to attend. One fourth would go to Assembly from Synod knowing something of the church's work more interested in it, and better fitted for their work in Assembly; three fourths would go to their homes knowing more and prepared to do more, not only in their own congregations but in the field for their Master.

The church and its work should be brought as closely into contact as possible and to this end the work of the Church should be discussed so far as is practicable in that court where there is at once the largest gathering and the largest representation and that court is with us the Synod. To transfer such discussion from Synod to Assembly is to cut off three fourths of the church from the benefits to be gained by taking part in such business. Instead of Synod meeting two days and Assembly ten. If the term of the former were doubled and the latter lessened by half and all the work that could be done equally well by the Synod were transferred to it, the Church and her work would be the better for it.