

Weekly Offering, as their method of securing the funds requisite for congregational and general ecclesiastical purposes. One of these has been making its contributions in support of ordinances in this way for nearly a quarter of a century: another for about five years, and another for nearly four. The rest have all commenced operations within two years. The measure of success has been, almost without exception, encouraging, in most cases very encouraging. The following is the most unfavourable report which the Committee received. "At our last congregational meeting, it was agreed to adopt the plan of weekly storing and contributions for all purposes. Since that time the plan has been in operation, but not with results so satisfactory as we would desire." The general results will be best indicated by drawing upon the language of the reports themselves. One brother writes: "Our congregation adopted the recommendations of Synod concerning Systematic Benevolence for the support of ordinances, on the first of June, 1872. The results so far, though not up to the requirements, are as good as anticipated, and compare favourably with those of the past year." Another report: "We have adopted the Synod's scheme partially—that is, to meet claims for support of ordinances with entire success." Another says, and quite a number report almost in the same terms:—"We have been encouragingly successful. The results compare favourably with those of the past year." Another writes:—"We commenced the system on Oct. 1st, 1870, with considerable improvement on the old scheme." Another informs us: "We have introduced the system at the commencement of the current year. The course which we pursue is to contribute every Sabbath for support of ordinances and the various schemes of the church. We asked the congregation to give an average of \$32.00. Owing to the stormy winter which we had, the contributions at the end of March only averaged \$22.38. From the first of April to the 9th of June, the amount raised per Sabbath was \$31.18, coming nearly up to the mark. We named a high average in the first in-

stance. We could do with \$28.00, but anxious to raise \$32.00, as it would enable us to give larger contributions to the schemes of the church. Upon the whole, we are very well satisfied with the working of the scheme." A sixth, at the close of a year's trial, in a congregation where many of the contributors are absent for a considerable portion of the time, says:—"On the whole, the plan of weekly collections is working better than the old system of subscription papers. There is nothing transcendent in the results, but the congregation seem to be satisfied with the new arrangement." A seventh, who is the pastor of a weak and scattered congregation, writes: "The larger section of our congregation adopted the system of Sabbath contributions on the 1st of Nov., 1870. For the year ending Oct. 31st, 1871, it was tolerably successful; on the whole, more successful than that of voluntary contributions previously adopted." An eighth, whose charge is also weak, reports:—"Our congregation has adopted your most excellent scheme. We commenced on the fourth Sabbath of January last. The success has been very satisfactory. So far, every obligation of the congregation has been met, and we have every reason to hope for better things in future. It has always been customary in this congregation to pay stipend, &c., &c., at the end of the year, which was exceedingly unsatisfactory, even had the funds been all on hand when the payment should have been made, which was seldom, if ever, the case. It is now gratifying to find, at the end of our first quarter's trial of your scheme, every obligation amply met, and that, notwithstanding the system's not coming into operation with us till the fourth Sabbath of January. A ninth, the pastor of a congregation which has been practising the system for some five years, affirms that, "as regards our congregation, the weekly plan is working well, and better now, I believe, than ever before. Our people give faithfully and, I hope, conscientiously."

These statements of the brethren need no comment. More of a similar character might have been added; but these are