

total of 30,415 families connected with the Church. This, it is believed, is under, and not in excess of the actual numbers, inasmuch as no allowance has been made for a large number of mission stations, the statistics of which are not reported to your Committee. Calculating, as in former years, that there are, on an average, five persons connected with each family, we would then get a total of no less than 152,075 persons coming regularly under the influence of the Canada Presbyterian Church. But, omitting the vacant, non-reporting congregations, the number brought under the influence of the Church would then be 142,700. However, your Committee thinks that it is quite legitimate to make the allowance which has been suggested. It is interesting to form even an approximation as to the actual numbers weekly coming under the power of Christian teaching in connection with our own branch of the Church.

4. MEMBERS.

It is also satisfactory to note that in the membership there is a steady increase. Last year the number reported, including non-reporting congregations having settled pastors, was 46,343; while this year the number is 47,866, giving an increase for the year of 1,543. That this is very much under the mark is evident from the fact that 2,335 united with the Church by certificate, and 2,586 on the profession of their faith, making a total addition of 4,921, while the diminution by death and removal was 2,522, leaving a net gain of 2,399. Now, it is evident that some congregations do not send in their returns complete, and some who reported last year have not done so for the year which has just expired. Making an allowance for those vacant congregations which did not report, the membership of the Church would be found to be about 50,000. This would give an average of about 150 members to each pastoral charge. Whatever allowance may be made for non-reporting congregations, it is satisfactory to see a steady increase in the membership, especially such a large accession as 2,586 on a profession of their faith. Of these no less than 143 were received by baptism.

II.—FINANCE.

1. STIPEND.

Turning to the department of finance, it is found the total amount contributed for stipend, not merely promised, but actually paid, reported to your Committee, is \$187,944.32, being an increase over last year of \$13,477.44, and being an increase over the amount promised of \$5,033.29. In two years the amount of increase has been \$19,844.68, and this, be it observed, not so much in consequence of the greater number of ministers in charge of congregations, although partly owing to that, as an actual increase of salary to many of the men who have been doing the hard work of the Church.

WHILE IT IS PLEASING TO OBSERVE SUCH AN INCREASE OF LIBERALITY ON THE PART OF OUR PEOPLE, IT MUST BE NOTICED THAT MANY OF OUR MINISTERS ARE VERY INADEQUATELY SUPPORTED. NOT A FEW RECEIVE NOW THE SAME AMOUNT OF SALARY WHICH WAS PAID TEN OR TWELVE YEARS AGO, WHEN MONEY WAS OF FAR MORE VALUE THAN IT IS AT PRESENT. INSTANCES MIGHT BE GIVEN, NOT FEW IN NUMBER, OF CONGREGATIONS WHICH HAVE INCREASED IN NUMBERS AND HAVE BEEN BUILT UP BY THE SELF-DENYING LABOURS OF FAITHFUL MEN, AND WHO ARE STILL KEEPING THEIR PASTORS ON THE INADEQUATE SALARIES WITH WHICH THEY BEGAN THEIR LABOURS. IT IS A FREQUENT SUBJECT OF REMARK THAT CONGREGATIONS, AFTER BECOMING VACANT, OFTEN INCREASE THE SALARIES WHICH THEY OFFER TO THOSE WHOM THEY CALL TO BE THEIR PASTORS. THIS IS NO DOUBT HIGHLY SATISFACTORY AND PROPER, BUT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE SATISFACTORY DID THE LIBERALITY COMMENCE A LITTLE SOONER.