

FREE WILL OFFERING.

The Synod instructed the Committee on Systematic Benevolence, of which Rev. E. A. McCurdy is convener, to make inquiry as to the success of "Systematic Giving." Mr. McCurdy corresponded with the secretaries of congregations. All the answers thus far received have been published, and all show that a goodly measure of success has attended the scheme. Some of these answers were in our last issue; more of them are given below:

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, TRURO.

Truro, Dec. 15th, 1881.

REV. E. A. MCCURDY:

Rev. and Dear Sir,—In answer to your postal card of Dec. 5th, I beg to say that St. Andrew's congregation some years ago adopted the system of voluntary offerings for each Sabbath day for the support of ordinances.

Some members of the congregation contribute by placing their contributions in an envelope with their name on the back. Others prefer placing their money in the plate each Sabbath without an envelope.

Of those contributing by envelope some do so every Sabbath day. Others once each month, while a few prefer to pay quarterly.

Our mode of collecting is by passing the collecting plates round after the sermon both morning and evening.

The treasurer keeps an account with members who contribute by envelope, and at the annual meeting furnishes an account showing what each one has given during the year as well as what has been received by general collection.

Our accounts for this year, 1881, will not be made up until the first of the new year as our annual meeting is not until about the middle of January, and I cannot, at present, speak with accuracy as to this year's accounts.

For the year 1880 we collected the sum of \$1863 which was sufficient to pay stipend, attendance, fuel, oil and insurance on church, and \$360 interest on our debt.

This year there may probably be not so much collected, but the difference will not, I hope, be very great.

As regards the working of this system of collecting, I think the trustees are

quite satisfied it is a good one, and (as far as our experience goes) much preferable to any other mode formerly in use.

It is true it gives persons who wish to shirk their duty an opportunity to do so, if so minded, and I presume some do take advantage in this way who might contribute more if personally demanded, but it leaves it free to all to pay as their conscience dictates, and, we are inclined to believe there are but very few among us who do not do what they consider right.

Yours very truly,

GEO. CAMPBELL,

Treas. St. Andrews Cong.

FORT MASSEY CHURCH, HALIFAX.

REV. E. A. MCCURDY, NEW GLASGOW:

DEAR SIR,—When Fort Massey Church was opened it adopted the principle of Sabbath offerings and left it with each individual to give as the Lord had prospered him or her. The Sabbath average varied from \$90 to \$80 at first. There were no envelopes nor any means of knowing what was given by individuals. Sometimes, when the collections or offerings showed a falling off, the members of the Managing Committee called on the members and pew-holders of the church, and stating the needs of the congregation urged a more liberal response which was generally given.

A few years ago the congregation considered the average would be raised by the adoption of the envelope system which they thought would induce some who were supposed to be deficient in their duty to act more liberally. For some months the envelopes largely increased the receipts, but owing to deaths, removals and personal business losses, the average fell from \$100 to from \$83 to \$85 per Sabbath at which it now stands.

The Sabbath offerings pay all the congregational expenses, stipend, interest, sexton, light and fuel, &c. The Schemes of the Church are attended to by the missionary collectors who make monthly rounds. Pew-holders have their own pews. First come first served is our rule.

SYSTEM.

We get envelopes as per sample herewith prepared numbered from 1 to say 100 and dated for each Sabbath of the year. Every contributor has a number in the Secretary's book. Parallel columns for each Sabbath of the year are in the principal book. Every Sabbath the envelopes are put into a box at the door