

contribute at least \$400 with a manse; the average rate per family must not be less than \$7. Taking these two terms for granted what sum would be needed to start the scheme. Last year we had 145 settled charges. Supposing all placed on the platform, the amount required would be \$6391 or 33½ cts. per family of our Church. Suppose we include vacant charges, total 172. Place all on the platform and the amount needed would be \$8650 or 43½ cts. per family. The probable amount needed suppose all to qualify at once would not be more than \$7500 or 37½ cts. per family. Is this an impossible sum? Surely not; last year we raised 56 cts. per family for Foreign Missions. Some of our presbyteries raised nearly the required amount under the old plan. In 1876 the Supplementing Committee voted \$7330, and, while they did not anticipate the expenditure of the whole sum appropriated, they named \$6500 (or \$109 more than would have worked the scheme last year) as absolutely necessary. It will be further noted that several years must elapse before the Church will come up to the condition as a whole, meanwhile the sum needed will be less than that above named.

Section III, "That the Supplementing Board shall, through the presbyteries, endeavor to call forth the liberality of our congregations so as to secure at least the minimum stipend." This provision is intended to meet one of the weak points of our present system. Some of our congregations which are sufficiently strong to raise an adequate salary neglect to do so, our present scheme drops these out of consideration. Now it is quite right that the committee should not waste money on such cases, but quite wrong that they should be neglected. When the committee drops the congregation, the congregation is very apt to drop the committee. Section IV provides that all congregations not paying the minimum stipend be a charge to the committee, the weaker to be aided by grants, the stronger to be taught the first principles of christian

liberality. That there is need of work in this direction will be manifest from the following facts: (a) Five of our congregations last year paid at the rate of \$2.00 per family or less. (b) Eleven vary between \$2.00 and \$4.00. (c) We find congregations having between 200 and 300 families contributing between \$300 and \$500 for support of ordinances. Some one will say let the presbyteries attend to this matter; unfortunately the presbyteries are *not* doing it. Some of these congregations were raising more six years ago than to-day. It is proposed that the Supplementing Committee do this work through the presbyteries.

Sec. V fixes the minimum rate of contribution per family at \$7.00. This is taken from our present scheme. It rests on the principle that in ordinary circumstances a congregation of 100 families should be self sustaining. It means that our families on an average should lay aside not less than 13½ cts. per week for gospel support. Or suppose the average income of the families of a congregation to be \$350 (about laborers wages) then it means that 1-50 of the income be set apart for the support of the gospel. Is this an unreasonable sacrifice?

Sec. VI provides a minimum rate of entrance on the part of the congregation. The sum required is \$400 with a manse. Suppose a threefold platform to be adopted then it might be arranged as follows: \$350, \$500 and \$650 to gain the salaries of \$600, \$700 and \$800. In which case the rates per family might be set at \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00 respectively. This latter arrangement might diminish to some degree the amount used to sustain the scheme.

Sec. VII to which some opposition has been expressed is: "That the Supplementing Board make an annual estimate of the sum necessary to secure all our Ministers the minimum stipend, divide said sum equitably among the Presbyteries of the Church and through the Presbyteries endeavor to secure guarantees for the same from Congregations." It