

tributing by envelopes weekly. Some parties have in that time been giving 100 per cent more than by subscription. Those who do not pay weekly are generally behind in paying and contribute less than those who do.

There has been quite an increase in the rate of contribution on the part of those carrying out this system, whilst those who do not are often in arrears.

I hope to see at the first of the year that all will fall in with the Weekly Envelope System, for I find it the surest and only way of having our quarterly stipend paid in when due.

Yours very truly,
J. B. COLTER.

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 27, 1881.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy, New Glasgow.

Dear Sir:—

Your card asking information with regard to the success of the Voluntary System of Church Finance practiced in Poplar Grove congregation might be answered laconically in the affirmative.

For more than fourteen years ordinances have been maintained all running expenses being paid by voluntary contributions from our people, collected in an open plate at the church door Sabbath morning and evening.

Quarterly statements are made to the congregation and if there should be a slight falling off the delinquents are reminded thus of their duty. At the end of the year we are sometimes a little behind hand and occasionally a bare hint is made that the old system might be better, but such a suggestion is at once silenced by one and another saying I will contribute \$10.00 or \$5.00 or \$1.00 and soon the deficit melts.

We think this method scriptural. We find it causes no dissatisfaction in any quarter from the fact of pew holders being in arrears. The work of the Treasurer is a sinecure. There is always money to meet bills as they are incurred. The pastor's salary is always ready for him and nothing would tempt us to return to the old system.

Seven years ago we adopted the same system to collect our contributions to the schemes of the church and it has showed a favorable result.

I have been Treasurer of our Missionary Society for twelve years and virtually Treasurer of the congregation for the same length of time and I have no hesitation in saying that this scheme is the best for us.

Yours faithfully,
S. WADDELL.

Halifax, N. S., 30th Sept, 1881.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy, New Glasgow.

Rev. & Dear Sir:—

I have much pleasure in communicating the information at my disposal about Weekly Collection vs. Pew Rent, for the support of Gospel ordinances, in St. John's Church. Our mode is simply to hand to the several persons attending the church, a packet of small envelopes with a request to those who accept them, to return the same each Sabbath at the Church door with their contributions. A book is kept in which the collections so made are recorded with the names of each subscriber. The total amount is posted up on the church door or vestibule, and may be examined and compared with each succeeding Sabbath.

By this method I am inclined to think we obviate a great difficulty which we had to encounter under the old pew rent system under which we were constantly in the custom of carrying forward a balance of arrears which more than probably never came in. Now we hold that if money has been collected it is in the Treasurer's hand and can be voted away. If it is not there we have no right to spend it, and consequently are kept clear of debts. In the matter of money I think under the pew rent system we might get more. I know we would get more promised, but with envelopes we have less trouble and the work is far more pleasant. Of course there are always a good many who do not pay anything and escape payment by this method, who would be got at under the pew rent system. Such has always been the case, but God gives to those who give for His cause and prospers them accordingly—this is in accordance with His own word, and is fully in accordance with my own observation and experience.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
JAMES FARQUHAR.

Miscellaneous.

Europe.

THE Established Church and the Free Church of Scotland have a nearly even number of congregations. The Kirk reports 1,268 and the Free Kirk 1,043. The United Church has only 549, but for benevolent and missionary work it raised \$28,500 more than the Kirk, and upward of \$93,060 less than the Free Church.