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A GLANCE AT OUR STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL RETURNS.

The last two numbers of the *Record* have contained several pages of figures, which, although perhaps appearing dry to some, we doubt not have by many been examined with deep interest. The truth is, these pages of figures exhibit the real working of the church, and show how her proper business is being accomplished. We propose to direct attention to a few facts, brought out in these returns, some of which may well encourage us, while others should not be without effect in exciting and stimulating our ministers and members alike, to greater diligence and earnestness in their respective duties.

It is one encouraging feature of last year's operations, that there has been greater regularity in forwarding these annual returns. Out of 230 pastoral charges (omitting some recent settlements) only 11 have sent no return. There has been also greater punctuality than in the preceding year in complying with the synodical appointments, with reference to the various schemes of the church. It must be admitted that there is still great room for improvement. We can scarcely say that we have even yet reached the point where there should be commendation. Altogether, there are six objects, for which collections are either enjoined or recommended. These are, first, the College; then the four quarterly collections, viz., Synod Fund, Widows' Fund, &c., Foreign Mission Fund, Home Mission Fund; and the French-Canadian Mission, for which the Synod recommends a collection. In the synopsis which we are presenting, we exclude the Home Mission collection, not because the object is unimportant, for we regard it as most important, but because, according to the system, or rather no system, which we have been pursuing, there has been no uniform plan with reference to it, most Presbyteries keeping their Home Mission contributions in their own hands, and only two or three putting them into the hands of the Synod's Committee. While for this reason we exclude the Home Mission collection from our calculation, we are glad to notice that in one way or another most of the congregations have contributed to this object, the total contributions for Home Mission purposes being \$5,571 67, an amount considerably larger than for any of the other synodical objects. We should observe, too, that in our calculation we are referring to the collections actually paid for the various objects, as taken from the books of the general Agent.