

secure a more perfect development of a most important Christian grace, entail untold blessings upon the Church and the world, and glorify the exalted Redeemer.

MEASURES TAKEN.

During the past year the Committee have as hitherto been guided strictly by the instructions of Synod. Wishing to reach directly, as many of our office-bearers as possible, they issued 800 copies of a circular to remind our people of your recommendations; to restate our principles; to indicate the progress already made; and to urge to increased effort in the same directions. They endeavoured still further to make a judicious use of the press, and so contributions upon the subject, some of them from members of the Committee, and others from esteemed brethren who cordially approve of your object have appeared in the different periodicals, which circulate most widely among us. As instructed, they also issued a second circular in April, for the purpose of collecting information so as to be able to present as full and accurate a report as possible to the present meeting of Synod. To the 110 circulars addressed to the Moderators of as many Sessions, answers have been received to upwards of seventy. To the brethren who have reported, the Committee wish to express their sense of obligation, not only for the cheering information which they have furnished, but also for the statement of their objections to the proposed system, and of the difficulties which lie in the way of carrying it out in their respective localities, and especially for the suggestions which many of them have made as to the best methods to be employed for its speedy extension throughout the whole Church.

RESULTS.

Of the 75 congregations which have reported, 29 have wholly, or in part adopted your recommendations. Only a few, however, aim at meeting all claims upon them by their weekly Sabbath Offerings. Most of them depend wholly upon these offerings for the support of Gospel ordinances among themselves. Some of them set apart certain Sabbaths for collections for the schemes of the Church, while others make their contributions for general purposes in other ways. Besides the 12 congregations reported last year as having adopted your recommendations, there have been added since your meeting in St. John, Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, Moncton, St. James' N. B., Charlottetown, Bedeque, P. E. Island, James' Church New Glasgow, Albion Mines, French River, Green Hill, Truro, Onslow, Windsor, Great Village, Coldstream, and Cornwallis, and Glasgow. River Charlo reports a partial acceptance

of the system. Sheet Harbour and Kempt in their largest sections have also adopted it. The congregations of West River make their collections for the schemes of the Church upon this principle. Glenelg St. Mary's has adopted it with the modification involved in the envelope system. Nor is this all. From many of the brethren your Committee have received the gratifying intelligence that the subject has been brought before the annual meetings of their congregations, and discussed with a good prospect of almost immediate acceptance; while from others they learn that their people are merely waiting to ascertain the result of the experiment in the case of some who have adopted it.

CONTINUED SUCCESS.

But that nearly 30 of our congregations have adopted your recommendations is not the most encouraging fact which can be embodied in this report. Your Committee would not have been surprised if, in the haste sometimes manifested in making a change, sufficient preparation had not in all cases been made, and so had found themselves shut up to report some instances in which the results had been far from successful. But though the movement has contended so rapidly, though the means of preparation for the adoption of your recommendations must in many cases have been exceedingly limited, they have not a single failure to report. Only one brother reports the result as so far unsatisfactory. Most of them report favourably of the change, and quite a number affirm that their own fears, as well as those of their congregations, have been disappointed, and their expectations more than realized. One brother states that there has been an increase in the contributions of his congregation. Another whose congregation numbers only 45 families who found it extremely difficult under the former system to pay their minister the sum of \$250 per annum affirms that during the first quarter his people raised \$75.00, while at the same date of the previous year nothing at all had been collected. A third whose membership barely exceeds one hundred, states that though the proposed system has been only partially adopted, a third more has been added to the funds of the Church. Yet another says "The two quarters preceding our commencement of the scheme, all our funds were raised by pew rents, and the income was not sufficient to pay the salary which was a trifle over \$800.00, so that the congregation was going in debt for working expenses and part of the salary. Since the adoption of the system of weekly offerings we have been raising at the rate of \$1240.00 per annum. Not only has the new system increased our income, it has also helped to fill our church."