

V.—*Religious Work.*

(1)—What are your opinion and practice anent pastoral work? What dealings have you with those who have made no public profession of their faith? What other means of instruction, if any, do you employ, besides preaching the Word? Have you any special services for the young? (2)—What share do the Elders take in the work of the Congregation? (3)—Every Christian is a member of the body of Christ, with a work to do for Him. To what extent is this truth realized and acted upon by your people? (4)—Do you consider the contributions of your people consistent with their ability? What method of collecting do you pursue, and which would you recommend?

VI.—*Hindrances.*

(1)—Is there much skepticism? What forms does it take? (2)—What of corrupt literature? (3)—What of changes of residence? When persons leave your congregation, do you take means to bring them under the notice of the minister of the place to which they go? (4)—What of ecclesiastical divisions? What ill effects have you observed therefrom on Church discipline, Home Mission work, and Christian life and work generally? (5)—What are the special sins and temptations of your people? What of worldliness, covetousness, dishonesty, Sabbath desecration, intemperance, unchastity, slander, uncharitableness, disobedience to parents, profanity, &c.; and what is your practice in the matter of discipline, and with what results?

The Committee request that you favor them with such suggestions on these or any other topics, as may seem to you fitted to promote the Christian Life and Work of the Church."

To give greater publicity to the work of the Committee, as well as to elicit fuller returns, it was also resolved that the list of subjects and questions be printed in the *Monthly Record*. Returns have been received from sixteen congregations, or from nearly one-half of the occupied charges in the Synod, and are as follows: From Halifax Presbytery, with six ministers, replies have been received from five; from Pictou Presbytery, with thirteen ministers, from seven; from P. E. I., with four ministers, from only one besides the Convener; from St. John. N. B., none—the only Presbytery which has failed to send any return at all; from Restigouche one, and he a comparative stranger; from Miramichi one; i. e., from the whole Province of New Brunswick there are but two returns.

The Committee cannot enter on their report without expressing their thankfulness to those brethren who have been at some pains to give such information as would be of value to the Synod and Church at large; while, in this their first attempt to classify and bring out the prominent topics and suggestions sent them, they would throw themselves upon the fullest indulgence of this venerable Court.

## I. THE EXTENT OF THE FIELD.

This is very variable. In cities it is the whole extent of the town, whether there be but one minister or more than one; in country sections it varies from 12 to 26 miles in length, to from 3 to 15 in width, with one and sometimes as many as 3 and 4 churches or outlying stations attached thereto. These features give our Church more the aspect of a great missionary organization, seeking to overtake the necessities and supply the wants of a newly settled, and, to a large extent, an agricultural population; and at the same time entailing much hardship and fatigue upon our ministers, from the extent of ground they have often to travel in order to fulfil their simplest pastoral duty.

From the second part of the inquiry it was the intention of the Committee to bring out the actual number of our adherents in these Provinces, together with a comparative statement of those who nominally adhered to us, but in reality attended no place of worship, so that an estimate might be made of the work yet to be overtaken by the Church. From the number of returns, however, it will be seen that it is impossible to arrive at anything like an approximate conclusion.