

CHEERING REPLIES.

The replies to the Committee's question as to the measure of success which has attended the practise of Weekly Offering are most cheering. We have no word of any abandonment of the system during the year. Without any important limitations, therefore, we can state that the reports from congregations which have fairly tried the system so far as they have been forwarded to us, are encouraging. The most unfavourable, indeed, the only unfavourable statement submitted to us is that of a brother, who says that in consequence of a deficit of \$100 which had arisen in the course of a two years test of this System, pure and simple, his congregation at the beginning of this current year had adopted the envelope plan with better, though not perfect success.

WITNESS OF EXPERIENCE.

Even at the risk of detaining the Synod a little longer, your Committee must ask leave to quote a few of the statements of the brethren bearing upon this point, and they submit that the session which has had the longest experience has the best right to be heard first. In a formal statement signed by Moderator and Clerk, that session says "that the system recommended was adopted by our Congregation at the time of its organization in 1844; that all funds for ecclesiastical purposes are raised by weekly contributions; and that the system has been attended with complete success. The successful working of the system with us for now nearly 29 years, would justify us in recommending it to other congregations, even were there no other considerations."

INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERIES.

Several say "It has been completely successful." One brother states, "The Congregation has made an increase of \$50 on the previous year." Another testifies, "The system of Weekly Offering has always been an improvement upon the old subscription plan, and has been attended with greater success lately than at any previous time. The average amount raised during the last quarter was larger than ever before." A third says, "It has been more successful for the last year in consequence of having asked each person to name the amount which he would give weekly to be increased of his circumstances permitted." A fourth states, "It has resulted in an increase of ministerial support to the amount of nearly \$100. A fifth describes its success in these exultant terms, "The system has met all the expectations of the most sanguine. After meeting all expenses the Managers found themselves with a surplus of \$160. They have generously added

\$100 to my salary, and it may be said that liberality has been doubled." For the year 1872 an average per family was \$12; for 1874, \$25." On the whole, therefore, the reports this year as in the past have been more encouraging than the Committee had anticipated. Their chief regret is that they have not been furnished with materials to enable them to state with confidence whether or not the same kind of testimony could have been universally given.

In view of the instructions given them last year your Committee thought themselves warranted in apply to Presbyteries as well as to Sessions for information respecting the efforts put forth, and the progress made under their auspices. They did so, however, with diffidence. Accordingly wishing to avoid even the appearance of assuming, as a mere Committee of Synod, an improper relationship towards the bodies which constitute the radical Courts of the Church they sought to approach them in terms sufficiently respectful, and they are glad to report that three Presbyteries favoured them with replies, the encouraging character of which increases the intensity of their wish that they had heard from all. One reports that while they did nothing officially, they brought the subject prominently forward at public meetings in some four or five Congregations. Another states that as much had been done as in the circumstances could perhaps have been done. At three Congregational visitations, held since last meeting of Synod, the subject was brought prominently forward. One of these congregations had already been working the system in a modified form, and the other two were induced to try it.

The Clerk of the third informs them that in addition to Congregations formerly reported one has adopted and another has turned to the system of Sabbath Offerings, that so far as he knows the system is working satisfactorily, especially where the sessions takes an active in its working, that six of their Congregations have advanced their pastors salary, five of them by the amount of \$100, and one by the sum of \$200, of which four are congregations dependent upon Sabbath Offerings.

SUCCESS.

In view of all these facts the Synod will readily perceive why the Committee present their report this year with exaltation and gratitude. The experience of the Church in reference to this matter has abundantly proved that the Almighty's own plans for doing His work are the best; and that when He prescribes a specific course it is wise to follow it even though it may appear to be beset with formidable difficulties. Judging from the past history of the movement, it