

row, that "preachers and preaching would appear to have multiplied without producing an equivalent moral elevation. There was far more honesty among us fifty years ago than there is now." And we believe him. The sacredness of our holy religion has been shocked and jostled and degraded, and its right hand palsied, by the rivalries and hates of contending sects. Humility, truth, integrity, are not, we fear, making vast strides in our midst—and who is to blame? Our own evil passions, which we nurse rather than bridle, and which demand a change of heart rather than a change of ecclesiastical policy. This is the great end for which to labour, individually and collectively; and how this can be best effected ought to be the great question of the day. Oh, for one breath of genuine piety—of that purity of mind and heart which filled the Church of old. The great effort now-a-days is to get *standing*, influence, power, numbers, for religious bodies. Not one of these is necessary. The purest Church that ever existed on earth was few in number, and met in an upper chamber of a private house. Yet its influence was wider and healthier than any that has come after it. The world and the worldly spirit mix far too much with our Church matters. We plan when we should pray; we speak when we ought to act; and when we do act, our action too often lacks sincerity.

But God is over all, and he will bring things right at last.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Statistics.

AFTER many attempts, we have at length succeeded in getting published, for general information, the statistics of almost all the congregations in connection with our Synod. The returns are, indeed, not as complete yet as could be wished for: for not only are McLennan's Mountain, St. Mary's and Truro represented by blanks, but there is no account of the amount of Church accommodation in River John, and no reference made to many out-stations where we have adherents, and often Churches, or buildings used as such, owned wholly or in part by our people. I refer to such places as Victoria, Fox Harbour, Stake Road, Sutherland's River, Mr. Martin's stations, Cardigan, Orwell, and many similar outlying fields both in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island. Then, in the usual classification before us, there is not one word about Cape Breton, though it is well known that we have there at least one minister and 3000 people; and of course nothing about those counties in which, though the census declares that we have adherents, we have never organized any congregations. All those drawbacks or omissions have the

effect of making us look much smaller than we really are. Still, there is no doubt that the published returns present us with a fair view of what is our effective strength, the real fighting force that we have to depend upon. It is with us as with every army. A general's force will be generally or even officially stated at 20,000 men; still, he will not be able to bring into an engagement a positive regimental force of more than 10,000 or 12,000.

I do not intend to go over all the items in the table of statistics now in the hands of most members of our Church, but simply to call attention to one or two of the more striking facts brought out by them. It is a pity that they could not have been published within the compass of two pages; so that, on opening the *Record*, the whole would have been before us in one view. This might have been effected by condensing under one heading the sums contributed to the various schemes; and there could be no objection to doing this, as each congregation has already seen published in the *Record* its particular or special contributions to each scheme. It would have been well, also, if the various columns had been added in all cases where it would have been interesting to show the sum total; and if a general analysis had accompanied the dry list of figures, it would have been acceptable to many readers. Looking, however, at the returns as we have them, while I fully endorse the editorial sentence that they are "as accurate and reliable as any documents of a similar nature," there are, at the same time, one or two matters contained in them that are liable to be misunderstood. Thus, in looking at the last question that is asked, it is indeed gratifying to learn that no supplement is given to any congregation except to St. Matthew's, Halifax, and to Pughwash, and Wallace River; and as the supplement to the first of those is government allowance for services to the soldiers, and that to the second has been withdrawn, and that to the third is from the funds of the Home Mission, it would seem that we are now no burden to the Colonial Committee; but such an idea vanishes when we see that the answer of St. Andrew's, Musquodoboit, must be a mistake, for it is supplemented both by the Halifax Home Mission and the Colonial Committee to a very great extent. Indeed the 56 families there promise only £40, and pay only £30 of that; so that all the rest of the Rev. Mr. Stewart's salary must be by supplement except what Truro contributes. Still, it is pleasant to know that we are now to so great an extent self-sustaining. Then, again, I see large sums credited to some congregations under the "Foreign Mission"; but we must not forget that though we are now in the Synodical year 1862-3, and that these sums were subscribed in 1861-2, they have not been yet paid in to the treasurer; and it is therefore not quite allowable to put them