

penditure for all purposes amounts to \$728," whereas your Committee know certainly that during the past year some \$3000 of debt upon the Church property was paid off in the most handsome manner. Nevertheless, as the figures stand in this Report, the average contribution of each communicant for the past year was \$8.70: a similar calculation applied to the figures for 1866 yields only \$6.27 per communicant.

The number of Manses is 83 against 77 in 1866; a net increase of six. There are still 47 congregations—too large a proportion by far, who have not yet provided a home for their Minister.

The total value of Church Property is represented by the goodly sum of \$845,620, which, were it divided equally among these 129 congregations, would invest each with freehold property to the value of \$6500. Included in this gross amount is the valuation put upon 3250 acres of Glebe lands, worth, at a liberal estimate, \$20 per acre, leaving in round numbers \$750,000 worth of insurable property. Negotiations are at present under consideration between a Committee appointed by the Synod and the Queen Insurance Company, whereby—for a valuable consideration—it is proposed to recommend that the Insurance upon the whole of the Church Property be effected with this Company. The Committee having fully satisfied themselves as to the standing and reliability of the Company there remains only the difficulty of inducing the large number of parties interested to fall in with an arrangement that, if carried out, would yield an annual revenue to the Church of \$2000, at the same time that the Church Property in question would be insured against all risks from fire *at as low a rate as can be effected with any other respectable Company*. In the opinion of your Committee, it will be a great mistake if the Church does not fall in with the proposal.

The debt resting upon this large amount of Church property is only \$54,346, which is less by \$29,080 than the encumbrance upon the very much smaller amount of property held in 1866; and it is within the knowledge of your Committee that with two or three exceptions the debt of 1866 has been entirely liquidated, and that the present

indebtedness results from the erection of a number of costly new churches within the last few years.

The last column of the statistical table shews that the sum of \$24,421 was expended during 1869 in the building and repairing of Churches and Manses. In this it is manifest that the reconstruction of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, is not included, as the sum of at least \$10,000 must have been incurred in restoring it to its original beauty. This case is noteworthy, however, as at least one instance—and several others might be added—of the risk to which Church property is liable from fire, even when entrusted to the ever-watchful eye of a "care-taker," and also of that wisdom which insures such property to as nearly its full value as possible.

One admission your Committee desire to make before concluding their report. It is this: that the preceding array of figures, at the best, represent very inadequately the real amount and nature of the work that is being done by the church. Much of that work is of a kind that cannot be subjected to arithmetical computation. The *all-important* work goes on silently and unseen. "The Day" alone will reveal it; and could christian ministers at all times feel this to be true, it would be a source of great encouragement to all who "preach the Word" to "be instant in season and out of season," "always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Even the outward and material work of the Church does not, by these statistics, sufficiently appear. It would require larger limits than your Committee propose to themselves for this report, as well as more extensive information than they are possessed of to traverse the whole scope of the Church's operations during the by-gone three years. For the present it must suffice to state that since 1866 your Committee are cognizant of the building of twenty-four new churches (exclusive of St. Andrew's, Montreal), that a number of others have been enlarged, embellished, and thoroughly renovated, and that the old time-worn barn-order of church architecture is rapidly giving way to graceful and appropriate designs after the early English Gothic styles.

Congregations that in 1866 were op-