

IS THIS THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

A poor child, straying into a Sabbath School one day, asked simply: "Is this the way to heaven?" The superintendent was for a moment startled. Was the school indeed the way to heaven? Was he trying to make it so? Were his teachers intent on the same object? The artless question struck home. From desk to class the question went round with a thrill. What were they all doing? Whither were they all tending? The question was like an angel suddenly come into their midst to make a record of all that transpired in that school.

"Is this the way?" The question might profitably be asked in many a religious circle; not only in the Sabbath School, but in the prayer-meeting, in the place of public worship, in the sociable, the bazaar, the *soiree*, and all the different places where Christian people are assembled, the question is most appropriate—"Is this the way?" Is it the way of blessing, the way of life, the way of peace, the way of salvation? Is it the way to win the favour of God, and to secure the confidence of men? Is it the way to make men believe that religion is a reality and the world an empty show? or are men sometimes convinced by the conduct of those who profess godliness, that religion is the form, and worldliness the reality?

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPPLEMENTING COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

EASTERN SECTION.

Your Committee on Supplements, when submitting their report to the General Assembly last year, indicated the steps which had been taken at that time, with a view of introducing the operation of the General Assembly's Supplementing Scheme in the Eastern Section of the Church. They stated that Presbyteries had been requested to unite in a hearty effort to carry out the scheme of the General Assembly and raise \$750.00, with a manse for every settled pastor. The hope was expressed that if such an effort were universally made it would result in the attainment for the first year of a minimum of \$600.00 and a manse, with something at least additional from the Surplus Fund; and it was reported that in response to this request the Presbyteries had manifested a willingness to make early efforts, so as to approxi-

mate if not to reach the point at which the General Assembly was aiming.

These guarded statements show that your Committee at that date were not sanguine of complete success. In view of the facts with which they found themselves confronted, the General Assembly will not be surprised at their caution.

A careful examination of the statistics had revealed that, of the 180 congregations within the bounds of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, only about 60, or one third of the whole number, were at or above the minimum of \$750.00 with a manse; that of the 95 others for which statistics were available about 35 were contributing between \$750.00 and \$600.00; 28 between \$600.00 and \$500.00; 11 between \$500.00 and \$400.00; and no fewer than 21, \$400.00 and under; and that the average contribution for ministerial support of the 95 congregations just specified was less than \$540.00 per annum.

It was discovered further that besides the half dozen organized congregations which were receiving grants from the H. M. Fund there were 8 or 10 which had not fulfilled the first condition imposed by the Assembly in order to entitle them to a place upon the list of Supplemented congregations viz., the payment from their own resources of \$400.00 and a manse, and that 42 congregations did not fulfil the second condition requiring an average contribution of \$4.50 per communicant.

On the other hand your committee found that there were no fewer than 34 of these congregations which by fulfilling all the required conditions, would be raised to \$750.00 and a manse by their own efforts, at a clear gain from this source, alone and without drawing any thing from the General Fund of from \$3000.00 to \$4000.00.

Further, they estimated that on the assumptions that all the congregations would qualify for receiving aid by the fulfilment of the conditions of the Assembly's scheme, that none of the congregations which had already more than fulfilled these conditions would fall back, and that some of them would make a moderate advance, they would require about \$5000.00 to level up all salaries to \$600.00 with a manse, and nearly \$7000.00 more to make them \$750.00 and a manse; in other words that the congregations in the Eastern Section of the church would require to raise \$12,000.00 for supplementing purposes about three times as much as they had been doing, and that as nearly as could be judged