

Your Committee would call attention to the fact, that not a few congregations contributed little or nothing for the Schemes of the Church. Many of them divided a few dollars among the various Schemes, with the desire, apparently, of saving the line against the name of the congregation from being a total blank, while some of the congregations have simply divided nothing among these Schemes.

The attention of the Assembly is called to the following particulars in connection with the contributions for the schemes of the Church. In one Presbytery, the total amount contributed to the Home Mission Fund was \$1347, of which sum four congregations gave \$1081, leaving the balance of \$266 as the amount contributed by the remaining thirty-two congregations of that Presbytery, being at the rate of 9½ cents per member in the latter case, and 70 cents per member in the former. In the same Presbytery, \$5072 were contributed for the College Fund; of that amount, \$4764.95 were given by the four congregations to which reference has already been made. In another Presbytery, two congregations gave \$237 for Home Mission purposes, out of \$518 contributed by the Presbytery. These two congregations represent a membership of 506 out of 2629. Taking one example more: In a Presbytery consisting of twenty-four congregations and four mission stations, three congregations give to the College Fund \$939 out of \$1265 contributed by the Presbytery.

In the same way it might be shown, by many other examples, that a very great inequality exists in the relative amount contributed by our congregations, this difference depending not so much on the average amount of wealth or poverty of the members, as on the locality in which the congregation may be situated, a difference which, it appears to your committee, should not be so marked as that which actually exists.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS.

In conclusion, your Committee would beg leave to submit the following recommendations:

1st. To recommend to Presbyteries to take order that congregations send in their reports in good season, so that the report of the Committee may be prepared in time for the General Assembly.

2. That Presbyteries be enjoined to take such action as may be instrumental in leading congregations to the exercise of greater liberality, and ESPECIALLY, TO DEAL with those congregations who contribute nothing, or very little, for the various schemes of the Church.

3. Your Committee would most earnestly urge upon the Synod the necessity of impressing on Presbyteries the duty of dealing with those congregations who are falling into arrears.

4. That the Statistical and Financial year run from 1st January to 31st December, and that the Returns for next year be made up in the same way.

5. That in connection with the change in our ecclesiastical organization, the Presbytery Clerks transmit their Returns to the Clerks of their respective Synods, before the first February of each year; that the Synod Clerks compile therefrom a General Synodical Return, which they shall transmit to the Convener of the General Assembly on Statistics, on or before the first of April of each year, and that said Committee compile from such Synodical Returns the Report on Statistics for the General Assembly.

All which is respectfully submitted.

D. WATERS, Convener.