

	1876.	1886.	1896.
No. of Ministers	157	170	216
" Churches and Stations.	303	440	535
" Sitzings in Churches..	71,555	105,224	171,723
" Manses.....	65	110	153
" Families	16,545	18,966	21,101
" Communicants	23,073	27,058	35,809
" Elders	969	1,139	1,538
" Baptisms	3,250	3,170	2,673
" S. S. Scholars	20,795	22,719	30,189
" Teachers	1,896	2,591	3,621
" C. E. Societies.....			192
" Members Y. P. S. C. E.			8,576

These figures reveal several important facts. 1st. Our ministers engaged in active work have an average of about three stations each to supply. That means much hard work. 2nd. There seems to be church accommodation enough for all our people and a good deal to spare. 3rd. Not counting 23 retired ministers and professors, there is one minister for every 109 families and for every 185 communicants. Counting the number of regularly organized congregations at 210, we have an average of 100 families and 170 communicants to a congregation. An article in *The Independent* of 21st January says, that in the Northern Presbyterian Church the average is 125 communicants to a congregation—in the whole Presbyterian family in the United States, 100—in the Congregational Body, 109—in the Baptist, 86—in the Methodist, 104—and that the average of all the Protestant Churches is 98. As our average in the Maritime Provinces is 170, we cannot be accused of unnecessarily and recklessly multiplying congregations. 4th. The increase of our communicants is proportionally greater than that of our families. In 1876 the proportion was 1.39 to 1; in 1886 it was 1.42 to 1 and in 1896 it was 1.69 to 1. That fact evidences increasing spiritual life and activity. There is much room, however, for improvement. In the three central Synods the proportion of communicants to families is more than two to one. Why should our Synod fall so far behind? Surely, two communicants for every family is a very small proportion! 5th. There are about