

heresy and vice threatening the very life of the Church at almost every stage of its history. It is so in the soul, there are nights in our experience as well as days, there are times of fierce struggle as well as seasons of peace, there are times of indifference as well as times of activity. Temptations like a storm sometimes sweep away the foliage of profession, the frosts of worldliness sometimes nip the buds of good resolutions. It takes many a summer sun and many a genial shower to repair the damage done, and often though the wound is healed the scar remains. Thus it is with the tree of religion in the soul, and in the world. It must grow during day and night, amid storm and calm, in winter and summer until it is taken beyond all such vicissitudes to the paradise above.

#### INDIRECT BENEFITS.

6. It is an increase indirectly beneficial to others, the birds lodged in the branches of the tree. These birds were the emblematic representatives of those who enjoy indirect benefits from the Christian Church. There are men who get their living from it, and yet do not belong to it. There are men who for rights and privileges take shelter under it, but do not live in it. We see these birds fluttering and picking and perching among the branches of the Church everywhere, they get indirect benefits innumerable without acknowledging the source from which they come. They often threaten to destroy the tree to which they owe so much. The Christian Church has moulded the civilization of christendom. It casts the shadow of its influence over the streams of commerce, the fields of literature, the labyrinths of philosophy, the walks of science, the paths of morality, and the dens and battlefields of politics. The members of modern society, like flocks of birds, are either perched in its branches or sitting under its shadow. There are greedy vultures of money-makers that come into the Church simply for the purpose of making gain; fluttering broods of triflers, that perch on its branches simply to be in the company of their neighbours or to get amusement; screeching owls of grumblers that sit on the tree simply for the purpose of fault-

finding; the chattering magpies of self-seekers, who hop among the foliage only for the purpose of letting themselves be seen and heard; the singing linnets of art, who light on the boughs only to display their talents; the wood-peckers of ecclesiastical and political time servers, who would kill or cut off the branch by which they have climbed into their position; and the black crows of hypocritical pretenders who try to hide their real character behind the moral foliage that grows on the tree of Christianity. There are many other birds of good and ill-omen that lodge in the branches of this great tree, which represents the Church on earth.

The Kingdom of Christ is planted on the earth. It is extending its roots into every nation, and spreading its branches over every creature. But what will all this avail us if we are not in that kingdom? If we have not received Christ and submitted to Him we must perish. If we do not receive Him as our king to reign over and protect us, we must be destroyed as His enemies.

#### SALARIES OF PROFESSORS.

The Board of Superintendence met on the same evening in which the theological session closed. They found on an examination of the full reports of the Treasurer, that at date out of 134 congregations, 85 had sent in contributions, and 49 had sent none. Locally these are distributed as follows:

In Tatamagouche	Pby. 2	have cont'd.	3	not.
In Miramichi	" 5	"	1	"
In Vic. & Richmond	" 4	"	3	"
In Cape Breton	" 7	"	3	"
In P. E. Island	" 8	"	10	"
In St. John	" 14	"	6	"
In Lunb'g & Yar'th	" 3	"	5	"
In Truro	" 10	"	3	"
In Pictou	" 14	"	8	"
In Halifax	" 18	"	7	"
	85		49	

The rate of contributions of congregations that have contributed averages as follows: In Presbytery of St. John, \$7.28; Miramichi, \$12; Victoria and Richmond, \$11.36; Cape Breton, \$15.41; Tatamagouche, \$21; Truro, \$24; Lunenburg and Yarmouth, \$26; Pictou, \$31; Prince Edward Island and Halifax, \$40.