

to them *fusionless* and unmeaning, but the man of business, and the thoughtful man, and every man who is interested in the welfare of his Church will think differently, and regard them not only as useful and instructive, but as absolutely necessary to an intelligent understanding of what our Church as a whole is doing. From them, the wise and prudent will discover at a glance whether we are advancing or retrograding, and will learn to seek for and apply needed remedies.

Through inadvertence of some kind, we must charitably suppose, the Convener's very brief and imperfect report to the Synod was not printed along with the minutes. In order, therefore, that the memories of the brethren may be refreshed, the following summary of it is now offered :

The returns include statistics from only ten of the twelve Presbyteries ; London and Quebec, the extreme points, being the defaulters. In Presbyteries, otherwise very satisfactorily reported, the large and important congregations of Seymour, Uxbridge, Scarborough, Pickering and Markham, are returned blank, while information is also wanting in regard to nearly all the vacant congregations.

Estimating the members in non-reporting congregations to be the same as in 1866, there is an apparent increase of 298 families, 292 communicants, 538 sabbath school scholars, and 21 teachers. Had the returns been more complete, there is no doubt that a much more encouraging statement could have been made.

The arrears of stipend are less than they were in 1866 by \$3779, but they are yet sufficiently large to call for Presbyterian investigation and action.

The contributions to the schemes are increased, the ten reporting Presbyteries having given \$631 more in 1868, than the whole Church in 1866.

The Presbyteries report having contributed "for all purposes" in 1868, \$93572, against \$93092 from the whole Church in 1866.

The average rate per communicant for 1868 was \$7.60, against \$7.27 in 1866.

The advantages of the schedule system over the ordinary mode of collecting for the schemes have been made apparent in those congregations that have made fair trial of it ; but there is reason to fear that a very limited number have as yet adopted the plan.

The large number of non-reporting congregations has very much embarrassed the

labours of the Convener, and it is hoped that in future the ministers and office-bearers of the several congregations will supply the desired information in a business-like manner, *promptly* and *carefully*, and that Presbytery clerks will send in their returns to the Convener, not later than the 1st of April, so that ample time may be afforded for the preparation of a complete and well-digested report to the Synod.

THE Synod has appointed the collection for the Scholarship and Bursary Scheme, to be made on the *first Sabbath of March*. Some congregations contribute to this scheme with unfailing regularity. All honour to them. Others have never sent a single contribution to it, and this latter class includes, strange to say, congregations whose ministers derived aid from the Bursary fund when they were students. It is hoped that no minister will this year think himself justified in disregarding the express appointment of the Supreme Court, but that every minister will afford his people the opportunity of helping this scheme of the church, without assistance from which, some of our most valuable pastors would have been unable when they were at college to prosecute their studies without interruption.

THE excellent pastoral address of the Moderator of Synod, published in our last number, has been made use of by several ministers in a manner to give it a chance of exercising an influence for good, they reading it from their pulpits instead of a sermon of their own. If this plan were adopted by every minister in the Synod, there can be no question that the eloquent appeal contained in the address would help to awaken congregations to a proper sense of their duties with regard to the support of ordinances, at a time when something of the kind is specially needed.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, MONTREAL.—We are glad to learn that the subscription list now amounts to \$6,178.50. The acknowledgment of the names has reached us too late for insertion.

ONE of our Western ministers makes a proposition to found two scholarships in Queen's College for the benefit of young men in Ontario desirous of studying for the Church, preference being given to those in London Presbytery. The communication, however, is so long that we cannot find room for it.