

## 9. Board of Managers :

All the congregations with the exception of three, from whom returns have been received, report that they have managers; their numbers vary from three to seven.

## 10. Times of meeting of Board of Managers :

Congregations appear to be very irregular in this duty : 9 congregations meet annually ; 8 half-yearly ; 7 quarterly ; some meet when required, and others do not meet at all ; 1 congregation, viz. Halifax, meets monthly.

## 11. Do your managers report annually to the congregation ?

22 report annually ; 1 intends to do so ; others give no answer to this query ; and the inference drawn is, that they have no regular time for reporting and have made no arrangements to have any.

## 12. Peculiar circumstances :

Under this head, your committee would state, that it appears that 2 congregations in the Presbytery of P E Island are rapidly becoming disorganised from want of pastors ; that one congregation in the Pictou Presbytery has been much weakened by emigration and disturbances, but are hoping for better times ; and that in the same presbytery another congregation reports that they are only to have as much of their pastor's labor as they are able to pay for. Your committee would also here notice, and they do it with much pleasure, viewing it as an excellent example to the church, and a favorable omen for the future, that one congregation in the Pictou Presbytery has paid up all its arrears ; and that another in the Truro presbytery has, in addition to the full payment of their minister's stipend, paid up £40 of arrears.

## Remarks :

Your committee have carefully examined the sums paid by many of the congregations to their pastors ; the manner in which these sums are raised, and the singular disproportion of the sums raised by some congregations for missionary and other benevolent purposes, compared with the sums which these congregations give for the support of religious ordinances among themselves—and your committee have felt deeply. It would appear to them that there are ministers, members of this Synod, who do not receive from their people enough to support them and their families. It would appear to them that there are others, who, in order to procure a

living are forced to engage in employments which however honorable and honest in themselves, are calculated to lower the status of the minister in the eyes of his people, and to lessen the efficiency of his labors among them. Is there much respect entertained for their minister by any congregation, and can we expect vitality or energy in that congregation which can from year to year suffer their pastor to be placed in such circumstances through their neglect? for be it observed, your committee labor under the conviction that the sacrifices which are made in the cases referred to are all generally made by the pastor.

These thoughts passed through our minds as we examined these returns, and they have led to suggestions of the following kind :

1st. Presbyteries should be directed to increase their efforts for the improvement of the financial affairs of the congregations under their inspection ;—that in their visitations they inquire particularly into the way in which congregations fulfil this duty, and impart such directions for the more efficient discharge of this where it may be necessary.

2nd. That whereas ministers have hitherto, from feelings of false delicacy, been disposed to keep this duty in the back ground, they be enjoined to be more faithful in bringing before their people the sacred duty of conscientiously supporting the ordinances of religion, according as God hath prospered them, not grudgingly, but as of a willing mind.

3. That every congregation be warned against the danger of compelling their pastor, by their want of liberality, to devote any part of his time either to teaching or manual labor ; as the very probable consequences will be that they will soon cease to profit by his ministrations. It frequently happens that congregations complain of the teaching they receive ; but we believe that oftentimes they themselves are to blame, as they do not enable their Minister to devote so much time as is necessary to gather and arrange the needed instruction ; nor do they enable him to procure such books as are indispensably necessary for the enlargement of his own views, and his preparation for the pulpit.

All which we respectfully submit.

GEORGE WALKER, Con. of Com.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

June 27th, 1851.