

the Bible Class. The truth is *infinite* and every time we study it something new will turn up; or the old will come with new power. We may thus go on studying the plainest Bible doctrines till the day of our death. It is a great loss to your mind, to your heart and soul, to give up the careful study of religious truth. Do not give it up under any pretence; and if you have not yet commenced, delay not an hour. The Great Teacher is ever ready to help you.

Out of our ten thousand communicants we have but 942 Sabbath school teachers. Surely this is not right. Our schools should be larger and more numerous; and the bar in the way of progress is the want of teachers. We can say from the experience of years that no work is pleasanter—that no work pays better (in the highest sense) than that of teaching in the Sabbath school. It will lead you to read your Bible when otherwise you might be tempted to neglect it. It will whet your desire for information and good reading. It will induce you to consult commentaries and other books that will greatly expand your ideas and help you to grow in knowledge as well as in the fear of the Lord.

The debt on Church Property is set down at \$16,263. This return is manifestly incomplete. The debt on our churches must be nearer \$30,000 than \$16,000. But even the latter sum is a heavy drag which should not be allowed to retard our progress. The interest of this sum alone would be help to sustain ten of our weak congregations and would support one foreign missionary.—Is it not worth while to save an expenditure of such magnitude as this?

We note that \$6,628 are due to ministers as arrears of stipends. Now this is a large sum for poor men to lose. Have you paid your minister? If not, do so immediately. It is a debt of Christian honour which it is ineffably base, mean, disgraceful to neglect. No honest man in a respectable community withholds his proportion. The minister will not *compel* you to pay; but it is all the more your bounden duty to redeem your plighted honour.

There are but 72 *Deacons* returned. We doubt not the more general appointment of

deacons to take charge of the temporalities of the congregations would be a valuable addition to the strength of the Church.—The office of deacon is a scriptural one and it should not be allowed to fall into disuse.

It is with pain and humiliation that we turn to some figures in the column of "stipends." In one case a minister is promised the sum of £75 a year, and £15 of the amount is set down as arrears! Another minister labours year by year on a stipend of £90, and his congregation allow arrears to accumulate to nearly that amount. Two instances occur in which the arrears are double the sum paid during the year. In one case the sum paid amounts only to £54.—This is the dark side of the picture. Some congregations have paid more than they promised. A large number are clear of arrears. Several have built comfortable Manses.—Others have raised their minister's stipend, paid old debts, and exerted themselves in various ways in the good cause.

It is well that all these facts, dark as well as bright, should be pondered. Men expect to undergo privations and are prepared for martyrdom among the heathen. But surely it is too much to expect a man to labour sabbath after sabbath here while his family is starving or he himself is plunged in debt. It is cruel—very cruel—to call a minister, to have him settled over you, and then starve him. We say nothing of the congregations that are poor themselves and do their utmost in the circumstances. In these cases the Home Mission steps in and to some extent makes up the deficiency. But we do complain of some congregations of rich, comfortable, thriving farmers who make a most melancholy figure in this table. It is never too late to mend; and we hope and pray that the figures against several names in next year's returns will be eloquent of changes for the better.

RECENT PERSECUTION IN TURKEY.

Recent intelligence of the most authentic character proves that the Turkish government ventured to inflict very serious injuries on Protestant missionaries and on all who were supposed to favor Christianity. Many