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THE SUPPLEMENT SCHEME.

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The distinction between the Supplement Scheme and that of Home Missions proper has been pointed out so often in the pages of the *Record* that it seems to be superfluous to return to it again. The functions of the Home Mission Board are to attend to the spiritual wants of such as are outside the boundaries of organized congregations, and to supply or aid in supplying vacant charges. The functions of the Supplement Committee are to aid weak and struggling congregations which as yet are unable of themselves to support pastors. There is no great difficulty in keeping that distinction clearly before the mind. If it be asked why it is that the Supplement Committee should have charge of a congregation while there is a pastor settled over it, and the moment the pastor dies, ceases to work, or is removed elsewhere, it comes under the supervision of the Home Mission Board, the answer is not far to seek. The preachers who supply or are candidates for the vacancy are at the disposal of the Home Mission Board. Meeting as it does but once a year, during the sittings of Synod, it would be inconvenient for the Supplement Committee to attend to such matters.

The first thought that naturally strikes one on looking at these Schemes is that the Supplement will be the most popular and best sustained Scheme the Church has. There is every reason to believe that such will be the result. The law of self-preservation; the most powerful to some minds

that exists, is involved in its due support. No portion of the interests of the Church is to be regarded with so tender an eye, and cherished with so anxious a solicitude, as that represented by the congregations that are as yet not self-supporting. Such are passing through the crisis that intervenes between the mission station and the full grown charge. If rightly managed and the blessing of God resting on them, they will sooner or later be able to stand alone, and not only that, they will be able to aid in supporting others. And in the generosity shewn to them in the days of their weakness there is a demand made on their gratitude ever after, a demand which in the nature of things cannot be disregarded. To say that such aid will not be given now, or that it will be doled out stingily, is as much as to say that the Church will not grow, will not extend her borders, will not increase on every side. Selfishness of that kind is as short-sighted as it is sinful. If persisted in it will lead to the gradual extinction of a Church; at best it will secure it in *statu quo* only, and even so much as that need not be expected. In every way in which the case presents itself, there is no branch of the operations of our Church that is fitted to call forth such an amount of intelligent enthusiasm, on the part of the people, as the Supplement Scheme.

And yet this scheme has not commended itself to the members and adherents of our Church in any degree commensurate with the claims which we have shewn it to have. In the three or four years of its existence as a separate scheme, the contributions