

section. We are amply able to do the work Providence has placed at our door, and the sooner we face the responsibility the earlier will we reach a sound financial position.

(2) But again the liberality of our church has never been fully tested by our present scheme. There are not less than 20,000 families organized in congregations or mission stations, under the care of the Maritime Synod. In 1879 these families contributed to this fund only at the average rate of 13 cents, or if we include special donations 18 cts. Last year the rate was 14 cts., or including donations 16 cts. During the present year the rate is 14½ cts., or including donations 15 cts. Again looking at the matter from the congregational point of view, only 70 per cent of our charges have on an average contributed anything to this fund during the last five years. The amount we raise for Supplements is only one-third of what we raise for Foreign Missions, only one-third of what we expend on Education, less than we raise for Home Missions, and nearly equalled by what our children raise for Mission Vessel and Schools. Taking these facts into consideration it cannot be said that our present scheme has adequately tested the liberality of our people. But why? Partly, no doubt, because it has been over-shadowed by other questions, to which the church was addressing her strength. Partly also because it has failed to grapple with the whole necessity of the situation.

(3) It is to be confessed that our Supplementing scheme has never reached the whole field. Many pastors whose local support is very inadequate receive nothing from this fund. Last year *six* of our ministers received from all sources less than \$400 as salary; of these, *three* were aided, and *three* received nothing from the fund. In *six* other charges the salary varied between \$400 and \$500. Here also *three* were aided, and *three* left to local resources. *Twenty-four* of our pastors received salaries ranging from \$500 up to \$600. *Fourteen* of these were

aided, and *ten* received nothing. Of *thirty-six* charges whose pastors last year received from all sources less than \$600, *twenty* are aided, *seven* left without help, and this while thirteen charges in which the salary varies from \$600 to \$900 are aided from this fund. No doubt the committee has done its best with the funds intrusted to it, and the Assembly has steadily endorsed its administration. No doubt also there are just reasons why many of these charges should receive no help, so long as the Fund is on its present footing. Yet while the committee is justified, the Fund is weakened, for it is not in the nature of things that any pastor can grow enthusiastic over any scheme which seems to work so unequally.

Taking these and other kindred facts into consideration it seems clear that there is a case for review. The church must reconsider the constitution of this fund, and devise more liberal things for her weaker charges.

E. D. MILLAR.

Lunenburg, June 28th.

Scottish Ecclesiastical Assemblies.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

The United Presbyterian Synod met on the second of May. The meeting was a very quiet one, there being no exciting question before them.

The Report on Statistics showed the number of congregations on the roll of Presbytery to be 549. In these were 858 Sabbath schools with 10,899 teachers and 84,440 under instruction. The number of members in full communion was 173,982, being 152 less than in the previous year. The aggregate attendance at prayer meetings was 23,748. The amount of congregational income for congregational purposes was £244,747, showing an increase on the preceding year of £19,345 0s. 5d. The average contribution for congregational purposes was £445 16s. 2d., or very nearly £36 more than in 1879.