

"The improved financial state of the Church, as indicated by the Returns, calls for special thanks to the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift."

"The liberality of the people having been stimulated by the great material prosperity of the country, the contributions for religious objects have been so largely increased, that the gross aggregate amount, on the face of the Returns, nearly reaches \$275,000. There are even ample grounds for concluding that with full Reports from each congregation, the whole amount would exceed \$300,000—the largest sum ever raised by our Church,—and plainly indicating the growth of more generous and liberal feelings, throughout the bounds of our Zion. The Returns, when compared and examined, shew an average contribution from each communicant of \$7 50, being the largest ever reached by us, and putting us in this respect, in advance of the Churches in this land or in the old country."

"As might have been expected, the improved material condition of the land has more or less benefitted the various Synodical schemes. But, while not overlooking them, it is gratifying to find that the most important financial branch—the Stipend Fund, has been most liberally dealt with, and exhibits an increase of over \$20,000. At the same time, general congregational interests have not been neglected, from the fact of the contributions for Church purposes shewing an augmentation of more than \$10,000. Using round numbers the College Fund presents an increase of about \$60., the Home Mission of about \$3,000, the Foreign Mission of more than \$700, and the Synodical of about \$40., while the gross contributions from all sources exceed those of last year by nearly \$50,000."

Mr. Kemp again and again states that the two periods present equal facilities for the progress of the Church. This only proves his ignorance of the state of matters in Upper Canada. The first three years of Mr. Kemp's first period were years of unexampled prosperity in the country. The first really bad harvest was in 1859, and it was not until 1860 that the effects of the commercial depression were fully felt. The years 1862, '63, '64 and '65 were the very worst years. Hundreds of mechanics were leaving our cities and villages to seek employment in the United States, and it is only within the last year that there have been signs of returning prosperity, of which we have ample evidence in the improved financial condition of the Church.

It would have been instructive to have compared our financial condition with that of the Wesleyan Church, but their financial statistics are so differently arranged that to any one not intimately acquainted with both systems it is impossible to do it satisfactorily. The writer has been impressed with the remarkable liberality of the members of this Church, especially in the support of their missions. Probably, in this respect, they occupy a higher position than any other religious denomination in the land, and their example should excite us to greater zeal.

As Mr. Kemp's arguments, designed to prove that the Church is in a state of decay, have been shewn to be unsound, it might seem to be unnecessary to follow him into that part of his pamphlet in which he discusses the causes of the alleged decay. But the statements themselves are so contrary to the facts of the case and so much calculated to do harm, especially beyond the limits of the Church, that it becomes necessary to reply to them also.

The first point which demands attention is the union of the two Churches. Mr. Kemp speaks of the union as though it had wrought evil in the Church, and quotes the old classical proverb that the half sometimes exceeds the whole. He represents the united Church as "without a past, strip of all generous enthusiasm, having no history, no contendings, no martyrs, no heroes, no special principles to represent." This will never do. It is the sheerest nonsense. If the Church has no principles to represent, the sooner it ceases to exist the better. We have a history,—our noblest history common to us all, running far back beyond either the Secession or the Disruption. The principles embodied in our Scriptural standards are as dear to us as ever. The Union itself is a great fact in our history. Many who feared the effects of it have