

authorized expenditure, in these Minutes. There are, about 14,000 ministers, from each of whom a report is expected each year, to be presented to his Presbytery, which tabulates these for the General Assembly. These Presbyterian reports are, *Statistical*—giving number of families, communicants, additions, contributions, and also, *Moral*—stating facts in regard to particular churches, their state, trials, encouragements, and prospects, how many of them and which have enjoyed revivals of religion through the year; in which of them the Catechisms are taught, Sabbath-schools and Bible-classes organized, with the number of scholars and teachers. Also, the various arrangements of the Presbytery for church extension; stating the number of their ministers, and the particular manner in which they are employed; the number of their churches, and how they are supplied; the number of new churches organized, and new houses of worship erected; what itinerant arrangements have been adopted for preaching the Gospel; what and how much agency has been employed; together with all such other facts and suggestions as will show, from year to year, what has been accomplished, and what may need to be undertaken, to bring all the churches to a proper degree of effort to promote the kingdom of Christ."—*Presbyterian Church (North), U. S. A.*

If the Calvinistic creed of the Presbyterian churches tends, as its opponents say, to discourage human effort in Christian work, through the doctrine of God's sovereignty, there is no appearance of any such tendency in this department of the church's work, which as we see gives an honourable place to human effort and responsibility. If one foot is on the sea of the infinitudes, the other foot of Calvinism is planted firmly on the solid earth of facts and figures. So careful, indeed, are the Presbyterian churches in this particular, that they insist on an annual census of their affairs,—with the exception of the Reformed Church (German), which is triennial,—whereas the nations of Europe and America content themselves with a *decennial* census in civil affairs. And this great body of information in regard to the progression and retrogression of the church in persons, officers, income, real estate, expenditure, is collected year by year with little more expense than the paper and type by which it is given to the world, pastors and clerks of church courts doing the work as part of their ordinary business.

The number of columns (thirty-four) appropriated to statistical information is less by ten this year in the Presbyterian Church in Canada than last year (forty-four); but even at this reduced number the Canadian church exceeds by nine columns the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (twenty-five), the U. P. church, U. S. A. (twenty-five), which are the highest next to the Canadian church. In all the Minutes under our notice all the information in regard to each congregation is given at one view, either along a page from end to end, or across two pages from side to side, except the Canadian Minutes, which devote two separate pages in different parts of the book to statistics, thus necessitating twice printing the names of congregations and ministers. It would be more convenient, not to mention expense, to have all the information about a congregation imparted at one view on a single opening of the book.

As regards statistical details we may call attention to a few of many interesting points: (1) The Reformed Church (German) U. S. A., is the only church coming under our notice which recognizes non-communicants

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