

weak and useless charge, without energy, and the cause of injury to the Church at large.

To supply the information, that members will not attend meetings to obtain, the system of publishing congregational reports has been adopted. But for the evil we have just indicated, it is very probable that this admirable means of furnishing information would not have been in extensive use. A few congregations would probably have been presented with such reports, because the managers, as business men, knew that only by a thorough exposition of the state of affairs could the people be expected to take a lively and intelligent interest in the welfare of the congregation. So far, therefore, from discouraging their publication, we would seek to urge by every possible means upon those who have not yet adopted this course, the propriety of doing so, and of conveying the fullest and most minute information that it is possible to give. There never was a more serious mistake committed than that which is too frequently made, the attempt, namely, to make things pleasant, as it is called, to suppress facts of a discouraging nature, and by glossing over difficulties to give an appearance of prosperity which there is nothing really to warrant. Therefore we would urge on Sessions, Trustees and Managers, to state fully and unreservedly everything that has taken place during the year to which the report refers; neither to exaggerate difficulties nor to place in too favourable a light, circumstances of an encouraging nature. Candour and fairness of statement are what are required, and the result of such a course will be mutual good will and confidence between the congregation and those to whom the management of its affairs has been entrusted.

But when this has been done what is the duty of congregations? Granted that there are, especially in country places, obstacles to hinder members from meeting in large numbers to deliberate on the statements contained in the reports, and to decide on the course to be followed to overcome the difficulties these may shew to exist, or to extend operations if circumstances appear to warrant them in doing so. The question at once arises: Are these obstacles insuperable? Can a little energy, a little determination, not enable members so to arrange their work as to attend a meeting so important to the best interests of themselves and families, upon the result of which depends so much the prosperity, even in a worldly point of view, of the whole neighbourhood?

During a contested election for Parliament, or for the Municipal Council, no difficulty is here experienced in this respect. Meetings are held day after day, and night after night, and attended without a murmur. Let a travelling circus or show be announced by gaudily coloured representations of the stale tricks of clowns and roughriders, and the wretched exhibition will be crowded and the proprietors will carry off hundreds of dollars, even in places in which members of Christian congregations will say they have no time to attend meetings and are too poor to do more than give a mere pittance for gospel ordinances. Brethren, these things ought not so to be. The welfare of souls is surely as important as the proper choice of a representative in Parliament, for it should be borne in mind that that choice depends on the state of intelligence and piety which prevails in the constituency. Surely, surely if you can find time to give hours at a circus, you could without much inconvenience give one hour at church. Was there ever a more striking illustration of the "power of littles" than the fact that one of these establishments will carry off, and frequently has carried off, by a single day's exhibition, \$2000 made up of quarter dollars, while the church has been starved and gospel ordinances neglected. If each member and adherent of the Church would think of these things, if each would make up his mind to do his duty whatever others might to do, there would be fewer complaints, even in poor localities. When men meet eye to eye, face to face, heart to heart, difficulties vanish, and when they are found to be insuperable, as they are sometimes in poor and struggling congregations, these can appeal with confidence to their brethren throughout the Presbytery or within the bounds of the Synod, and can point to their own exertions as a proof that it is not unwillingness to struggle but inability to overcome that has compelled an appeal for help. "We have done what we could."

Such, we think, are some of the lessons to be derived from the meeting of Synod held to consider the position of Queen's College. It is the frequent and systematic meeting of members of congregations for friendly conference that will infuse life into the Church and all its operations. On the part of office-bearers the most candid statement of affairs will beget the most thorough confidence and anxiety on the part of members to meet all obligations, and working thus with one heart and one mind difficul-