

REGARDING STATISTICS.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian:

Dear Sir,—I see by your issue of 11th inst. that Owen Sound Presbytery has expressed itself regarding improvement of Statistical Forms. The suggestions are for the most part good.

1. "Report each congregation and mission station in statistical and financial tables." Why not? To save a little money—the cost of setting up the extra type. That is all the advantage. Yet the General Assembly can always find the money if a new office is to be created, and an additional salaried officer appointed, till the government of the church is fast passing from a Democracy to the worst of all kinds—a Bureaucracy. The system forced upon the churches last year with its "alphabetical order," and, therefore, one name and one line for the pastoral charge, may suit the convenience of the Toronto office; and a presbytery that takes no interest in what the individual congregation or mission station is doing (if there be any such) may be content with it; but a presbytery that would faithfully interest itself in the welfare of these, to ascertain the measure of their growth, or decline, and the measure of their liberality, is by that system practically debarred. Herein is a marvellous thing: The Assembly Clerk who is charged with this business finds he must have the name of each congregation and mission station appear with the name of the minister of the charge in the Synod Roll where they are not required, while they are persistently kept out of the statistical table, with their respective figures of statistic and finance, where they would be of great practical use.

2. Make headings perspicuous.

3. Omit cents to save room.

Both of these suggestions are good.

5. "If possible, print names of ministers in statistical tables also."

It is possible; and if done would be a great convenience. The church treasurer's statement of contributions received for schemes of the church appear on the right hand page of the statistical and financial tables. Under the former treasurer these appeared on one page, with a space one inch wide for names of congregations, and every station was reported. That inch of space should be available now. Let it be transferred to the left hand page of statistics, immediately after the names of the congregations in the charge as formerly. To do this, all that is required is a little condensation of the money columns on the right hand page, and the transference to it of some of the columns now on the left hand side. Besides, if need be, could not columns on Value of church property, and on Debt on church property be omitted altogether without causing any interest to suffer? Just here also it occurs to me to ask, is it necessary that five columns—hereafter six—should be taken up with college contributions. Should not one be enough? Congregations could still contribute to as many as they pleased, the gross sum only appearing opposite the name.

To all of which I beg to submit the following suggestion: The Assembly of 1906 gave order to place ministers' names on the Synod Roll in the order of ordination. This was the old order. The order of the Assembly of 1907 is to place them in the order of induction within the bounds of presbytery. But if ministers' names are made to appear in the Statistical tables, they could be placed there in the order of induction. Then they could appear on the Synod and Presbytery Rolls in the order of ordination. This would be handy for reference in either case. That there is nothing to hinder such arrangement is the opinion of, Yours,

COMMON SENSE.

"SAVED FROM SODOM."

(Rev. Austin L. Budge, M.A.)

After repeated warning the morning of judgment at length broke. What a terrible day to Him who loveth mercy, and willeth not that any should perish! What an awful visitation to the doomed city!

For four unworthy people special efforts were to be made. They had delayed until the very last hour of respite—yoked with the world. Now the two angels are to administer firm discipline. They hastened their departure. But still lingering with their idols, like little children they were taken by the hand. Then having set them in motion, they were sent forth under every sign of alarm. Escape for thy life, look not behind, stay not, escape to the mountain.

Thus the morning of judgment passed in Sodom. This day of ours ever is the "last morning" for this wicked world. For a thousand years are with the Lord as one day. It finds iniquity still burning, and will be visited with the fire from Heaven. The wild disobedience of our Absalom's is still hot in its wicked race. The wine of our Belshazzar's feasts is yet burning in its intemperance. And the "flood of the innocent" is warm as it falls upon the rejectors of mercy who cry—let His Blood be upon us! Like Sodom, a wicked world is not both before and after judgment.

But we are to notice the "work of grace" for the unworthy. The summons of the King still requires speed. The word to-day is—hasten! The Great invitation states that the feast is now ready. The program of Christianity is that Christ is saving to-day. The assuring hint of the end of the world is—behold I come quickly. How many men like Lot have put off both duty and responsibility until the last day? How many like his wife have their treasure where they cannot help "looking back" though it be to see it destroyed? How many resemble the two daughters, in "getting salvation" under the lurid shadows of death?

What a procession! Two angels from Heaven, with a poor, silly creature in each hand! How many other hands have they since taken and led out of destruction? Directly and indirectly they have exerted a loving force in salvation. Yea, as they have gone out into the highways and hedges, they have "compelled" them to come in.

Was that dear old mother the angel that has taken you by the hand? She will not leave you in sin. How long have her prayers laid hold of you? How much has she allowed to slip from her grasp in that order that her hand may hold you firmer? Even when the voice calls her home, her prayer will be of one—her child, who is dearer to her than life.

Are there not two friends who have been the angels of God in your life? Who has not such a friend or two? It may have been that earnest worker at the "special meetings" who knelt and prayed at your side—a service that was deepened. It may be that it was your employer who looked tenderly into your eyes on pay day and said—save your money! Don't throw it away! Or it may be another, that you name to none, whose love and goodness are angelic in their influence over you.

Then end this awful hour. Go on with the leader joyfully and completely. Go where you will never again hear the words—Escape for thy life and where "turning back" will not be a temptation. That you may have no doubt about it, look at your life and see whether it is adding anything to the business of God, or to that of Sodom. For the King has said—if ye love me keep my commandments.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The Congregations of Duff Church, Dunwick, and Tait's Corners, Ekfrid, have called to be their pastor, the Rev. Walter L. Nichol, B.A., Licentiate, a graduate of 1906. His ordination and induction take place on Thursday Dec. 19th in Duff Church. He succeeds the Rev. D. T. Ellison now of Ayr, Ontario.

A very successful meeting in connection with the Laymen's Missionary Movement was held in St. Andrew's Church, London, last Tuesday evening. The attendance was large, almost filling the area seating of the church, and represented all the denominations in the city. The principal speakers were Revs. J. Campbell White and J. L. Murray, the latter showing the present state of the greater heathen nations—especially India and China—at the present day, their evident awakening interest in Western civilization, with aspirations after advancement among themselves. Mr. White expounded the object of this Laymen's Movement, to secure that the Gospel will be preached to all unevangelized nations and peoples during the present generation. Mr. White's treatment of the practical side of the subject was to the audience convincing and effective, and was followed by the passing unanimously of the following resolution:—Resolved that this assembly of laymen of the City of London record its profound sense of the importance of the Laymen's Missionary movement for the evangelization of the world, express its cordial approval of the movement and pledge its loyal support of and hearty co-operation in the united efforts of the Christian citizens of London toward raising the sum of \$50,000 annually as a contribution to missions for winning the world to Christ."

Rev. Dr. MacLaren H. M. Secretary, addressed an interesting public meeting on Monday night, held in King St. Church, London, under the auspices of the Women's Home Mission Societies of the city.

MONTREAL PRESBYTERY.

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, Rev. W. D. Reid, of Taylor church, was elected Moderator.

The first business taken up was a ministerial call from Rockburn and Gore to Rev. Allan Stuart Reid, B.A., B.D., who had been chosen unanimously by those congregations. The call was sustained and arrangements were made for the induction, which was fixed for December 23. Dr. Moss, of Westminster, will give the charge to the pastor, and the Rev. A. S. Ross, of Montreal West, the charge of the people, while Rev. W. D. Reid will preach.

A minute was read expressing deep sorrow at the death of Rev. A. Stevenson of Beech Ridge, which, with a eulogium of his work and character was adopted unanimously.

The request of Mr. J. J. York, for the presbytery's permission to sell the site of the Presbyterian church at Maisonneuve, was granted.

The call to Rev. Mr. Corbett, from the Glenboro presbytery, was sustained, and was accepted by him, provided the Glenboro presbytery would grant him until March to make the change.

The touch of love that goes with the gift is more than the gift without the love.

Christmas means not only an open heaven, an open manger and an open heart; it means an open grave and the gift of a new body.

The country folk were the first to worship the Son of God, and to-day we may still find the most sincere worshippers among the hills and valleys.