

gation, as a matter of honesty and truthfulness, and the man who refuses to give according to his ability is disloyal to the church and to Christ and faithless to his most solemn promise. If he is a member of the church universal, then he is under obligation to serve the church universal—his obligations are co-extensive with his privileges.

This principle of oneness or unity of the church is recognized and acted upon in the different Schemes, such as the Home Mission, the Foreign Mission, the Supplementing, the French Evangelization, the College &c. Let us study briefly each of those Schemes.

THE SUPPLEMENTING.

The Church in the West has only one fund to aid weak congregations and to send preachers to mission stations, properly so called. Up to the year 1863 the Synod of the late Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces had but one Board or Committee for both purposes; at that time it was considered advisable to disjoin them and to entrust the management of each to a separate committee.

The design then of the Supplementing Fund is to aid weak congregations to pay the salaries of their ministers. There are many congregations in the Lower Provinces that could not have the regular ministrations of pastors was it not for the timely aid which they receive in this way. The importance of the Scheme is eloquently set forth in an address by the Rev. Dr. Sedgewick before a missionary meeting in Fort Massey Church, Halifax, in 1874. He said:

"The several objects which share your beneficence, have claims more or less cogent, and more or less pressing, and I have no intention, as certainly I have no wish, to urge the claims of any one of those objects to the detriment in any sense, or in any degree, of any other. But, Sir, there are objects and objects, and there are claims and claims, and among these several objects and claims, as it seems to me, there is no one that comes, or ought to come, home to us more closely or more tenderly than the scheme to supplement our small and weak congregations.

"These congregations, as you know, are mainly in the country places in these provinces, only a few of them in the villages or towns or cities of the land. Now, this being admitted, what are these congregations, pray? Why, first of all they are lights shining in a dark place, they are lights in the world, so far

forth, they are lights, of truth, to warn against the darkness of error,—of holiness, to allure from the dark and devious courses of sin—and happiness, to cheer and to bless where there is little else, and in some cases, may be, naught else, to gild the present with joy, and to make the future bright with hope which is full of immortality, and which, to many an error tossed soul, and to many a sin tossed and sin tormented soul, is an anchor sure and steadfast, entering as it does into that which is within the veil.

"Some of these congregations, the most of them indeed, are on our coast lines, within the sight and hearing of that far resounding sea; ay, sir, they are morally and spiritually what yonder Pharos, what yonder light-house is; which in fair weather or in foul, whether in hurricane or zephyr, to our shipping coming into our port or leaving it, guides safely out to the voyage of life, at the beginning, and into the desired haven at the close. Allow one of these congregations to languish, or to die, and you would do a much greater evil than were the light-houses all around us to become useless through parsimony or neglect.

"And then they are nurseries of our town and city congregations to a very considerable extent, I was going to say to a great extent. Sir, it used to be so in point of fact, in days long gone by, with some of your congregations."

Space will not permit further quotation. The importance of the Scheme must be evident to every intelligent man and woman.

But what are our people doing to indicate their appreciation of the Scheme? The year subsequent to the union the committee were able to say in their report to the General Assembly:

"They can point with legitimate satisfaction to the fact that though the work has grown upon their hands, from fifteen supplemented congregations in 1863 to forty in 1875, and from \$1100 required in the former year to \$4000 in the latter, they have been enabled to fulfil every obligation into which they have entered."

Last year they had to report a debt of \$1104.43. This debt was due chiefly to the fact that the parent churches in Britain had discontinued the grants which they had been making annually, while our own people had made scarcely any advance on their previous contributions.

It may be interesting to some of our ministers and people to know what each Presbytery is doing in aid of this Fund. In the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces there are about