

ing a charge on the Synod Fund. It was recommended to ministers as a guide to the Committee, to ascertain and report the numbers which will be required in their congregations.

#### STATISTICS.

Professor Macknight submitted the Report of the Committee on Statistics. It is as follows:

The Committee on Statistics beg to report that the Table now in the hands of Synod comprises returns from 127 congregations. There are no returns from Wentworth, Bay Fortune, Summerside, Tryon and Bonshaw, Acadia, Musquodoboit Harbor, French River, Little Harbor, Scotsburn, and some congregations recently formed. All of these congregations either were or still are vacant, except three. An estimate of the personal statistics of these congregations was formed by using the most recent return found in previous Tables; but it was thought as well to leave them out of account altogether in the financial department, as it too often happens that there is a collapse, partial if not total, of the financial organization and work of a congregation when it is vacant.

In glancing over the general Summary, and comparing it with that for the previous year, it will appear that there is a considerable increase in the funds raised for local purposes, especially for church building, whilst there is scarcely any increase on the contributions for Synodical objects.

The most satisfactory feature presented by this comparison is an increase of fully a dollar in the rate of contribution per family—the average rates being for 1871, \$9.24, and for 1872, \$10.31.

The Committee find that our question in the Schedule is ambiguous, that relating to the average attendance at Church. They would recommend that in reprinting the Schedule, average attendance be defined to name the average number of persons what attend preaching on one Sabbath.

In conclusion the Committee would urge upon ministers, the importance of a more punctual transmission of the returns to the Clerks of their respective Presbyteries; and they would also request that the Clerks complete their several tables by adding up the columns, as it is very inconvenient to have nearly the whole of this work to perform at the last moment, when the tables are actually passing through the press.

Respectfully submitted,

A. MCKNIGHT, *Convener*.

The Report was adopted, and the question relating to average attendance was ordered to be left out of future Schedules.

#### UNION.

The Report of the Committee was read by Rev. Dr. Bayne. It was as follows:

#### UNION COMMITTEE REPORT, 1872-3.

Your Committee feel great gratification in being able to report proceedings which present such brightening prospects of speedy, and happy consummation. Since it became their privilege, as well as duty to represent this Synod, your Committee have sought to realize the responsibility laid upon them, on the one hand, to conserve the sacred interests of the Doctrine, Discipline and Government delivered to faithful guardianship, and on the other hand, to remove the reproach caused by the grievous and unseemly, because unnecessary and injurious divisions in the various branches of the Presbyterian Family throughout the Dominion. It is with peculiar pleasure your Committee have to affirm that the Committees of sister Churches manifested the same spirit and pursued the same course throughout all negotiations. When the joint meeting was held at St. John on the 11th April, it was found that a previous meeting of the Committee representing the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the Canada Presbyterian Church had taken place at Montreal for the purpose of considering matters arising out of the deliverances of the Supreme Courts of these Churches, and specially affecting THEM. The minutes of the conference when submitted to Joint Committee were found to contain the results of deliberation on the then important subjects, which had hitherto caused the greatest divergence of opinion, viz.

1st. The deliverance of the Canada Presbyterian Church or the Headship of Christ over His Church.

2nd. The deliverances of both Churches on State Grants to Denominational Colleges.

3rd. The deliverances of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland on the mode of appointment of Theological Professors.

Instead of entering immediately on the consideration of the decisions of the Conference on these subjects, the Joint Committee resolved to take up the Basis of Union.

The articles were severally read as adopted in 1871, and it was unanimously agreed that they do form the Basis of Union for the United Church, viz.:

1st. That the Scripture of the Old and New Testament, being the Word of God, are the only infallible rule of faith and manners.