

LIBERALITY IS INCREASING.

A reduction of blanks in every scheme! The comparison will appear a little more favorable when it is stated that the number of congregations counted this year is 180 while last year it was 175.

Progress is seen by another comparison. Last year 69 congregations contributed to the 6 schemes above mentioned, this year 87. Last year 14 contributed to only one, this year 9, this year 2 contributed to none. Last year 4, the year before 7. May we not hope that very soon there will be none as low as zero. It is cheering to see that more are awaking to a sense of duty, and that the number loyal to the work of Christ and the church is increasing.

Another comparison will still further confirm our view that the liberality of our people is growing. Consulting the Assembly's Minutes and comparing the Statistics of 1976 with those of 1888 we find the following averages per family for contributions to the schemes of the church from the different Presbyteries:—

	1876	1888
Truro	\$1.11	\$2.60
Sydney	.31	.61
Victoria and Richmond	.57	.62
Halifax	2.63	3.32
Wallace	.92	1.40
Pictou	1.53	2.57
P. E. Island	1.20	1.46
Lunenburg and Shelburne	1.13	1.44
St. John	.85	1.47
Miramichi	.79	1.18
Newfoundland	2.68	3.00

A comparison of the intervening years would show a steady advance with some retrogression a chance year. But on the whole the tide is steadily flowing higher and higher, and we trust that the hearts of the people are being more and more powerfully moved with true christian principle, so that in the future as in the past the growth will continue.

ARREARS DECREASING.

Coming now to Stipend we have there also something to cheer us. Arrears of Ministers salaries are decreasing, to the comfort of ministers, to the credit of congregations, and to the glory of God. As compared with last year the Presbyteries stand in the Assembly's Statistics as follows:—

	1887		.1888	
	CONGRE-GATIONS.	AMT.	CONGRE-GATIONS.	AMT.
Sydney	3	\$2843	2	\$2381
Vic. & Rich	3	489	5	1024
St. John	5	1105	5	801
Halifax	4	503	3	275
Miramichi	1	76	3	263
P. E. Island	1	228	5	244
Lun. & Shel.	1	162	1	155
Truro	1	17	1	150
Pictou	3	469	1	75
Wallace	0	0	0	0
Newf'dland	0	0	0	0
	22	5892	26	5368

It is an honor to be low down in this list. "The last shall be first" applies here. One unfavorable thing in this is, that more congregations are reported in arrears this year than last. But on the other hand the aggregate sum is less by 524 dollars. And still further the Assembly's statistics present the matter in a more unfavorable light than the actual state of affairs now warrant. We can report that at present not only the Presbyteries of Wallace and Newfoundland are on the honor list of no arrears, but also Truro, Pictou, and Lunenburg and Shelburne. May they ever continue so. The other Presbyteries are reducing the number of congregations which are behind in the payment of their ministers salaries, so that next year we hope to be able to have a still more favorable report. It is encouraging to compare our position with that of ten years ago. In 1877 arrears amounted to \$9852 in 35 congregations, in 1878 to \$9455 in 37 congregations; in 1879 they rose to their highest point or rather sunk to their lowest depths, \$9869 in 51 congregations. Since that time they have been gradually declining and it is to be hoped that they will soon be gone to rise no more. It seems too bad that some of the figures appear in the statistical column—they represent amounts so trifling—such as 15 or 20 dollars. We may admire the honesty and accuracy of those who make up the returns, but we cannot admire the spirit of the congregations that will allow such paltry sums to witness against them. We think however that ministers must be to blame as well, for if the matter were brought fairly before the Session or Managers they surely would not allow such figures to mar the statistical returns. But