

was culpable negligence in some Presbyteries.

The past cannot be helped; but we must be careful to attend to the injunction of Synod this year. The Committee has no choice but to publish the Returns in the *June Record* however imperfect they may be. This is the command of Synod and it must be obeyed.

It is much easier to fill in the Returns at once and forward them to the proper quarter, than to live under the sense of a duty left undone. The Statistics now required are those belonging to the twelve months, ending on or before the 31st Dec., 1870.

It is much to be regretted that our Synod has never yet been able to publish a complete Statistical Return of our congregations. Usually five or six congregations—sometimes ten or twelve—are wanting. This surely should not be so. The injunction of the Synod should be promptly observed. To fill up the Returns involves but very little trouble. It is due to the whole Church to have the fullest information laid before her of the position and work of her congregations. The Synod would not, without good reason, ask for the Statistics; and surely as Presbyterians and as Christians we are all bound to obey those who are over us. We hope that the Table to be printed in the *June Record* will be unprecedentedly complete, and that no congregation will be conspicuous on account of the blanks opposite its name.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

We have referred to the statistics for 1870—how anxious the Synod is to have them published, complete, in the *June* number of the *Record*. These Statistics will suggest to all who study them, the amount of work that has been done for the Redeemer's Kingdom by our congregations during the year. Reader: how much have you done to advance the cause of Christ in your own congregation? How much have you given to aid weak congregations, and to sustain and extend our Home Mission work? How much have you contributed

to sustain our Colleges? How much have you devoted to the Foreign Mission? Each of us must ask and answer these questions for himself. The register of last year is closed. We can not add to the good deeds, or deduct from the bad deeds, that have marked its hours. God has sealed in His own keeping the record of the past,—never to be unfolded until the last day. But we have now entered on a new year with its burdens and cares. Its hours are before us to be laden with the blessings of beneficence, or with the curse of barrenness. We have yet to make the Statistics of 1871. Let us see that the record of the future shall be brighter and better than that of the past. Let duty be performed with alacrity; and let the inquiry be frequent, "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?" Our own Church Schemes require constant attention and the exercise of ever-increasing liberality; but we must not confine our views to our own church: it is a privilege and a pleasure to aid, as occasion may offer, all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. When the Statistics of 1871 shall be published—shall be completed—how shall we stand? What account of our stewardship can we give to Him who searches the heart and to whom all deeds are known and ever memorable?

THE "DAYSPRING."

TO OUR SABBATH SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN:

Dear Young Friends,—Your *Dayspring* Cards are this year a little later than usual in reaching you. We delayed sending them, to avoid all interference with collections for the Supplementing Scheme, which is intended to help the weaker congregations in supporting their ministers. But we cannot wait any longer. The *Dayspring* money has been borrowed in part from the Board of Foreign Missions and sent away, and the Board will need all its loaned money to use in paying its Missionaries on the first week of January.

The Board of Foreign Missions are pleased and thankful that for several years you have done all that they expected or de-