

ciples, and earnestly recommended their universal adoption to all their people, and it is for the same reason that they have striven so incessantly to carry out the instructions which, from year to year, they have received

MEANS USED.

It will be in the memory of many of the members of Synod that, when your Committee presented their first report in 1870, only three of our congregations had adopted the practice of weekly offering for the full support of the Gospel within their own bounds. It will be remembered, too, that, at the very next meeting of Synod, they were privileged to state that nine more had loyally accepted your recommendations. Last year, they were able to report that the number had been increased by seventeen more; thus making a total of twenty-nine congregations, which had thrown themselves upon the free-will offerings of their members, presented every Lord's day, for all purely congregational purposes. Believing that, on account of the very rapid progress which had been made, the movement had acquired sufficient momentum to carry it forward fast enough, for, at least, a single year, without any special effort on the part of the Committee; and, feeling particularly anxious to test its efficacy in those congregations which were already committed to it, they did not, at the last meeting of Synod, ask for liberty to use the same means for its propagation which they had been authorized to employ during the previous years. They were convinced that a recommendation from the Synod to Presbyteries, sessions and boards of managers, to use all diligence to promote the extension of Systematic Giving, more especially of Weekly Storing on the part of all, and of Weekly Offering when practicable; and an instruction to the Committee to watch over the progress of the movement during the year, and to endeavour to collect reliable information, and lay the same before this meeting of Synod, would be all that was necessary. Accordingly, the Committee issued no circular immediately after the rising of Synod. A few weeks ago, however, they sent a list of queries to each of the sessions, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts as to the number of congregations which are working the system, the length of time during which it has been in operation, the measure of success or failure by which it had been attended, the influences which had injuriously affected the movement, and the extent to which your recommendations had been attended to by managers, sessions and Presbyteries. They also requested the brethren to forward any suggestions which might occur to them in connection with the subject. The Synod will perceive, therefore, that

the questions proposed to sessions this year were framed chiefly with a view to those congregations which had accepted your recommendations, and were designed to elicit all the available information as to the working of the system where it had been adopted. To their circular, sixty-eight answers have been returned. In other words, about one-half of the moderators of sessions in settled charges have reported. Your Committee feel that the failure of so many brethren to report, presents a discouragement all the more distressing because it might be so easily remedied. Their duty, however, only requires them to direct the attention of Synod to the fact.

PROGRESS.

Of the twenty-nine congregations reported, on former occasions, as having introduced the practice of Weekly Offering, twenty-four have transmitted replies to the Committee's circular. The Synod will be gratified to learn that, so far as reported, only one of the congregations which have adopted the system has abandoned it. The report from the Session of Brooklyn, states that "the congregation judged it necessary to depart from the plan adopted last year, so far as to require the stipend to be paid on the first Sabbath of the month inclosed in envelopes." Londonderry also reported a return to former methods; but, it will be observed that, while, in consequence of the transition state of the congregation, Great Village has reverted to subscriptions, it is hoped but for a short time. Portapique and Bass River, one of the new congregations formed by a division of Lower Londonderry, has retained the weekly offering.

But the Synod will regard it as much more than an offset to these drawbacks, that eight congregations have reported the adoption, during the year, of your recommendations, viz.: John Knox Church, New Glasgow; Maitland, River John, Calvin Church, St. John; Mahon, Cape Breton, Dundas, P. E. Island; Prince St. Church, Pictou, and Fort Massey, Halifax.

Besides these, the congregation of Sydney and Mira partially adopted the system, but under the impression that the methods to which they had been accustomed would prove more productive. After a very short trial, they preferred the use and wont of modern times to what many regard as primitive and apostolic practice.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

Your Committee could wish that the time of Synod would admit of their giving in full the answers furnished by sessions relative to the results of the system, so far, in these congregations in which it has been in operation. They believe that the facts contained in these reports would furnish the best possible reply to most of the ob-