

information respecting the progress of the movement, they have not been able to obtain such full and detailed accounts of the state of matters in particular congregations as formerly. Your Committee however have no reason to think that there has been any decrease of interest in the subject on the part of those congregations which have adopted your recommendations, but though they are not able to present the Synod with those cheering statements furnished by Sessions which added so much to the interest of former reports, the Synod will be gratified to learn that quite a number of Presbyteries have loyally and heartily attended to the recommendation of last year issued in the following terms:

"That the Synod recommend the Presbyteries without delay to bring the subject before all their congregations by circulars or deputations, and to urge the adoption of the system as soon as practicable, and that the Clerks of Presbyteries be requested to obtain information respecting the progress of the movement, and to transmit the same to the Committee at least one month before the next meeting of Synod."

VISITATION AND WORK OF PRESBYTERIES.

It is with extreme pleasure that your Committee have to report that the Presbyteries of Halifax, Truro, Pictou and Prince Edward Island have visited all their congregations by deputation with good results. The deputations were well received, the object of the Synod explained, objections considered, and in some instances removed, and an agitation commenced or carried on which will likely soon issue in a still further increase in the number of the congregations adopting the proposed method. The Clerk of Prince Edward Island Presbytery reports eight of their congregations operating under the system and says, "In all these congregations the scheme is working well, and is a decided improvement upon the old pew rent and voluntary subscription system. In some of these congregations more than three times the amount is raised by the new plan than was by the old, and that too without difficulty."

From Truro Presbytery the statement comes, "The degree of liberality in this Presbytery has for the past few years been steadily increasing. While the rate of advance over the whole Church has been 5 per cent. in this Presbytery it was over 18 per cent. per family. With the exception of the Supplementing Fund all the Schemes of the Church have received larger contributions during the year. All the congregations have been visited by special commission of Presbytery, with a view to excite and encourage the people to abound in the grace of liberality."

The Presbytery of Lunenburg and

Yarmouth report that they have made this one of the themes of addresses at all the meetings of Presbytery for visitation, that they have instructed the brethren to expound the subject at missionary meetings, and as they might deem advisable at the ordinary Sabbath services. They state further, that in the principle sections of all their congregations except two, the plan of Weekly Offering is in operation for the purpose of securing congregational funds, that in all cases the results are very gratifying, that the amount collected is steadily advancing, and that in several instances the minister's salary has consequently been increased."

The Presbytery of St. John report that they have resolved to make arrangements for visiting their congregations at their first meeting after the Union.

Your Committee are deeply impressed with the importance of Presbyteries effort in reference to this matter. Its success or failure depends largely upon the action or inaction of Presbyteries. Were all our Presbyteries heartily to take hold of the movement, did they at their Presbyterial conferences occasionally discuss the subject, and at their visitations press it upon the people, a most valuable impulse would at once be given to it throughout the length and breadth of the Church. It is an animating consideration that the subject of Weekly Offering is commanding a wider attention now than ever before, that powerful pens and eloquent tongues are advocating its speedy and universal adoption, and that the tendency in almost all the churches is decidedly in this direction.

EXCELLENCE OF THE RULE.

It is refreshing to find the Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Publication in a recent work on the Science of Christian Economy, entitled "God's Rule for Christian Giving," after quoting the precept "Upon the first day of the week," &c., affirming "The most consummate finance in modern ages can add nothing to, & take nothing from this brief rule. It contains every important principle necessary to the accomplishment of the great end in view. All that is needed is simply obedience to it in order to fill the Treasuries of the Christian Church, to secure for the Church that favour of God's which follows from conformity to His will, and to supply the means needed to send the Gospel to every creature. It is a rule which should be inscribed upon the walls of every house of worship, which should be written in memory and heart of every professor of religion, and which should be taught to every child that has been consecrated to God by Christian Baptism."

It is cheering to find the topic under