

THE SUCCESS.

3. *Success* always attends this scheme where the people are intelligent and conscientious. On this point it is best to reason by *instances*. We give therefore the following without approving of the plan in all its details as the experience of the Rev. G. K. Ward, who thus writes about his congregation in Dansville, U.S.A.

Some weeks ago the writer received a communication from the chairman of Committee on Foreign Missions, setting forth the pecuniary needs of that Board, and asking from the church of which he is the pastor, a contribution of one dollar and a fraction per member, as a reasonable assessment for the year 1876. The receipt of this communication has prompted the following account of my own experience during the past two years, in meeting the demands of the Boards of our Church. It is presented in the hope that the suggestions which it contains may be the means of encouraging others to adopt the plan which has proved so successful in the present case.

During the year 1874 I adopted the old custom of making a special appeal to the charity of my people, upon the taking of each annual collection. The result was unsatisfactory. The Foreign board asked for a contribution of about \$250, and we sent them \$87.16.

There was about the same difference between the amounts requested by, and contributed to the other benevolent objects of the Church.

At the beginning of the year 1875 I introduced what is generally known as Systematic Benevolence. The plan was entirely new to my people, and although their acceptance of it was urged, both upon the grounds of Scriptural authority and evident practicability, it did not meet with general favor. Like most new enterprises, it was looked upon with suspicion, and out of a membership of two hundred and fifty, only fifty were persuaded to make trial of it.

The result of the experiment not only demonstrated its feasibility, but was successful beyond our most sanguine anticipations.

The pecuniary advantage, to say nothing of other benefits, derived from the introduction of a regular system of benevolence, was perhaps never more strikingly shown than in the following tables, the first of which presents a contrast between the amounts contributed for benevolent objects during the year 1874 and 1875, by the congregation of the Dansville Presbyterian church; while the second proves

that this gain was due largely, if not altogether, to the introduction of system.

TABLE NO. 1.

	1874.	1875.
Foreign Missions.....	\$87.16	\$125.40
Home Missions.....	69.19	117.30
Education.....	23.62	40.85
Publication.....	22.66	37.65
Church Erection.....	21.00	62.38
Freedmen.....	20.50	47.86
Relief.....	27.76	66.70
Sustentation.....		10.00
	\$271.89	\$507.64

Increase during 1875, \$235.75, nearly ninety per cent.

TABLE NO. 2.

Showing the sums contributed respectively by the fifty systematic givers, and the rest of the congregation, during the year 1875.

	By the fifty.	By the others.
Foreign Missions.....	\$86.81	\$38.59
Home Missions.....	109.25	8.05
Education.....	25.51	15.34
Publication.....	29.66	7.99
Church Erection.....	46.09	16.29
Freedmen.....	34.00	13.86
Relief.....	46.88	19.82
Sustentation.....	10.00	
	\$387.30	\$119.44

The above table shows an average of \$7.56 to each systematic contributor, and only 59 cents to each of the others.

In calling attention to the above estimate, it is only fair to state that the most liberal contributors are largely included in the systematic class; but we have only to observe that during the year 1875 this class contributed a larger amount, by \$106.41, than the whole congregation during the previous year, to be convinced of the immense advantage to be gained by system.

The plan which we have adopted will be readily understood from the following explanation. During the month of December each member of the congregation, old and young, rich and poor, is furnished with a printed circular, having upon it the objects recommended by the General Assembly, with a blank opposite each, to be filled out with the amounts which each desires to contribute during the year. A duplicate accompanies this, which is to be likewise filled up and returned to the treasurer.

The amount subscribed for each benevolent object respectively, is brought to the church upon the first Sabbath of each month, placed in an envelope provided for the pur-