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Systematic Beneficence.

To the Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

DEAR BRETHREN :—The General Assembly at its meeting in Winnipeg, in June last, appointed a Committee on Systematic Beneficence under the following resolution :
 “Whereas, there is urgent need of greater liberality throughout the Church in order to the development of the several Schemes, and even to the maintenance of the degree of efficiency already attained ; whereas it is the duty and privilege of all Christian people to contribute towards the support and extension of the Kingdom of Christ as the Lord hath prospered them ; whereas we who enjoy the superior privileges of the New Dispensation, and upon whom the responsibility of carrying the message of salvation to the whole world is definitely laid, should not, at least, fall beneath the standard of giving for the Lord’s cause prescribed for the Jewish Economy ; and whereas, notwithstanding the gratifying increase of contributions which we witness from year to year, the duty of adequate and systematic liberality is as yet imperfectly realized :—The General Assembly appoints a Committee on the subject of Systematic Beneficence, for the purpose of bringing, through the Press and otherwise, the important subject herein referred to earnestly and fully before the whole Church, with the view of promoting, on sound Christian principles, the heartfelt and continuous growth of liberality in connection with every department of the Church’s work. Presbyteries and Sessions are requested to co-operate with the Committee, and especially to assist them in gaining the ear, if possible, of all the congregations and families of the Church.” The Committee thus appointed beg to address a few words to the members and adherents of our Church in fulfilment, so far, of the important duty laid upon them.

Systematic Beneficence may be understood as relating to all our givings for religious and charitable purposes, whether in connection with our Church organization or otherwise. This paper has special reference, however, to giving for the support of our respective congregations and the several Schemes of the Church. It may be useful, therefore, to bring under the eye the estimates for the present year, as carefully prepared by a Committee of the General Assembly. For some of these Schemes the estimated expenditure is larger than that of last year ; for others, the figures are nearly the same. The prospect of a serious deficit in some of the Funds at the end of the year, or the sad