

to a certain extent, frustrated. If more than one are chargeable with such an omission, whether through intention or neglect, the result is felt in the summing up, whether this is made by the Presbytery or by the Supreme Court, and a flaw remains in the particulars from which the aggregate is formed. It is anything but creditable to a congregation to be guilty of such omission. Either there must be lack of interest, and it is consequently fair to conclude that religion is not in a flourishing condition, and, farther, that the management of the Church's concerns, both by the Session and by the Committee of Managers, is in careless and incompetent hands; or there must be a lack of respect for the constituted authorities of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ; and then it is fair to conclude that the congregation has committed a mistake in applying to be received as a constituent part of a Presbyterian Church, whose grand and peculiar principle of polity it is that all the parts are subject to the whole. Indeed we would have little hesitation in proposing that defaulting congregations should be cited to the bar of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are situated; or to the bar of the Synod, and be visited with such penalties as are consistent with the spirit and design of the visible church, and with that authority which the Lord has given for edification and not for destruction.

Statistical reports tend to foster the idea of the unity of the Church. This is the case even in denominations which have not the same uniting bonds in their several congregations that exist in Presbyterianism. When the Trustees of School Sections send in their yearly and half-yearly returns to the Local Superintendent, by whom again, the results, if not the particulars, are forwarded to the Education Office, they feel and are reminded that the school system is one. When Judges and Councils make their reports to higher departments, they recognize the fact that they are elements in one empire, or system of government. And when congregations make up for transmission to Presbytery and Synod, a statement of their transactions during the year, they feel that they are members of the body ecclesiastical, sustaining a connexion with others, and existing under the governmental influence of a Supreme Court. And it is of no small account to foster and encourage the idea that while the visible Church is composed of many members, and while each individual in fellowship has his own gift, the body is one.

Several years have elapsed since what is now called the United Presbyterian Church in Canada began to require statistical reports from the congregations and stations under its superintendence. Thirteen years ago, as it appears from a sheet now lying upon our table, the Presbytery of Toronto procured returns and published them, and these may not have been the first. The writer is not prepared to say when the Synod first took action in the matter, but if it was not before the year 1845, it was about that period; and this action has been continued down to the present time; and we think that it may be asserted, that so far from falling from this course, there is the determination to prosecute it with unabated, or