

every congregation has faithfully fulfilled its promise as regards ministerial support? We trust not very long. It can be done, though in the case of one Presbytery it is evident that it will require a long and strenuous effort.

## WEEKLY OFFERING.

We have also the satisfaction of reporting progress in the methods employed by congregations. They are gradually adopting more scriptural methods of church finance.

Twenty years ago there could not have been more than two or three congregations in our Synod practising the system of weekly offering. At the time of the Union (1875) the number had increased to about forty. After that there was a decrease. The Committee on Systematic Benevolence was dropped and no special efforts were used to keep the matter before our people and the interest declined. But now again the tide is rising, and at least one-third (over sixty) of our congregations have adopted this system, nearly all with the envelope. Some of them it is true, are only imperfectly working it, but if they will only honestly, earnestly work it they will never go back to their old methods.

We are pleased to note that as the result of weekly offering, monthly payments to ministers is increasing. Two years ago 12 ministers were paid monthly, this year twenty-one.

We regret that there is still more or less complaint in almost every Presbytery of want of punctuality, and that still 19 congregations pay only half yearly and two yearly.

The room for improvement in the management of financial affairs of congregations is still great. More system; and when a good system is adopted, more conscientious carrying it out by the members of the congregations is needed. Yet there is great encouragement from the advance made in the last twenty years.

## THE SCHEMES.

It is pleasing to find that congregations are increasing their contributions to the schemes of the church. The following comparison of the agent's statistics for the past two years shows the increase from the Presbyteries.

| Presbyteries          | 1888    | 1889    | Inc. per c. |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Truro                 | \$3,816 | \$5,347 | 40.12       |
| V. & Richmond         | 833     | 1101    | 32.05       |
| Pictou                | 6619    | 8,397   | 26.87       |
| Sydney                | 1,350   | 1,720   | 21.40       |
| P. E. Island          | 5,154   | 5,992   | 16.25       |
| St. John              | 3,611   | 4,193   | 16.11       |
| Lunenburg & Shelburne | 989     | 1,134   | 14.60       |

|              |       |       |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wallace      | 1,684 | 1,871 | 11.10 |
| Newfoundland | 7,652 | 705   | 8.12  |
| Miramichi    | 2,154 | 2,215 | 2.84  |
| Halifax      | 8,577 | 8,639 | 0.72  |

|       |          |          |       |
|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| Total | \$35,439 | \$41,314 | 16.57 |
|-------|----------|----------|-------|

This is made to appear more favourable because the contributions of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society are included in this year's figures. But even if these were subtracted there would be increase over last year. Further deduction is made from our gratification because increase is not in all the schemes. To three schemes less was given, viz:—Augmentation, College, and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. But then a good advance was made in contribution to Foreign Missions, Dayspring, Home Missions and French Evangelization.

## BLANKS.

The blanks in the columns devoted to these schemes are decreasing in number, though not as rapidly as we desire. Consulting the Assembly's Minutes we find this year 175 blanks in 186 congregations as against 178 in 180 congregations, last year in the columns allotted to the six schemes, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, College, Augmentation and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, besides 63 in the Dayspring column as against 53 last year.

The number of blanks under each scheme is as follows:—

|                       | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Home Missions         | 27   | 17   | 17   |
| Foreign Missions      | 18   | 13   | 14   |
| College               | 50   | 44   | 44   |
| Augmentation          | 18   | 12   | 8    |
| French Evangelization | 55   | 37   | 29   |
| Ag. & Infirm M. Fund  | 69   | 55   | 65   |
| Dayspring             | 54   | 53   | 63   |

## THE BLANKS IN PRESBYTERIES.

|                       | Con'gr. | Blanks |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| St. John              | 31      | 40     |
| P. E. Island          | 31      | 37     |
| Victoria & Richmond   | 11      | 12     |
| Newfoundland          | 2       | 7      |
| Lunenburg & Shelburne | 9       | 9      |
| Pictou                | 18      | 14     |
| Wallace               | 10      | 8      |
| Miramichi             | 16      | 12     |
| Halifax               | 30      | 21     |
| Sydney                | 14      | 7      |
| Truro                 | 15      | 7      |

There is a marked increase in the number of congregations contributing to ALL the schemes of the church, 101 this year against 87 last year.

The average contributions per family has increased in all the congregations, as may be seen by consulting the Assembly's Statistical Report.