

Report of Missionary Committee

IN presenting their twelfth annual report and financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1896, the missionary committee are pleased to announce an increase in contributions as compared with the previous year.

While we gratefully acknowledge our thanks to those who have so generously supported the mission schemes of our church, thereby enabling us to show a better statement than we did in our 1895 report, we are candid enough to confess to a measure of disappointment at the general results of our year's offerings, particularly in view of the fact that we find a widespread apathy manifested by a very large percentage of our congregation in this most important branch of Christian work.

Early in the past year your committee issued a printed circular, setting forth the schemes of the Presbyterian Church, and asked for a more liberal support of the same and for a more general use of the regular missionary envelope, urging members to state on a slip attached to the circular the amount they were willing to contribute monthly to the mission schemes. This appeal was delivered at the homes of over 400 members and seatholders, with the result that we received responses from less than a dozen.

Later we resolved to provide a special missionary envelope to be placed in the pews on the Sabbaths of the monthly missionary offering, hoping thereby to bring this great branch of our church work more immediately before those who apparently overlooked or ignored it. For several months this plan worked fairly well, but latterly there has been a considerable falling off in their use, even after being placed so conspicuously before the congregation, so that at the present time there are not more than eight or ten contributions per month from this source.

In regard to our giving by the regular missionary envelope the following statistics should be of interest to the congregation and are very necessary if we are to review our work thoroughly: Out of a