

(three years) as will entitle every minister to join the fund, desirous of doing so. Ministers whose congregations are unable to raise the entire sum, or even the half of it, are specially requested *not* to allow that to act as a reason for not joining it—as, while most of the congregations reporting agree to raise the whole amount, a few have a greed to contribute, or have already contributed, largely in advance of that amount.

JOHN M. KING, *Convener, pro tem.*

STATISTICS OF OUR CHURCH.

Before this number of our *Record* reaches its subscribers, Blank Forms of the Annual Statistical Return and Financial Statement will have been sent to each of our Congregations and Stations, for the purpose of being filled up, and transmitted to the respective Clerks of Presbytery, on or before the 8th May. Notwithstanding the proverbial dryness of the subject, we deem it necessary to make a few remarks upon it, as the present will be the first Return since the Union. Great care has been taken to get a Form generally acceptable to the Church, and, though fuller, from its being the first, than will be necessary in future, yet an effort has been made to compile a Form as brief as possible, and at the same time fitted to exhibit a correct view of our outward state and prosperity, so far as figures can do so. The difficulties in accomplishing this desirable end have been increased through the Union, and, without great forbearance and pains on the part of congregations, correct Returns will not be obtained. As illustrative of this we need only refer to the Financial year. That of the late United Presbyterian Church extended from the 1st January to 31st December of each year; and the Synod having decided that it extend from 1st May to 30th April, the Union not having been consummated till the 6th June, a complete year cannot be embraced within the present Return. In regard to the Statical Return and Synodical Collections, this will be of little consequence; but in regard to the Stipend and Congregational Contributions, the use of a broken period dating from the 6th June, would produce endless confusion and trouble. It has, therefore, been thought advisable to recommend that the two last items referred to be given from the 1st May, 1861, to 30th April, 1862. Considerable difference of opinion prevails respecting the propriety of having a column for average attendance at worship on the Lord's day, some even stating conscientious objections against it. But, on the other hand, the feeling appears so general in favour of such a column, that it has been found necessary to give it in a modified form, confining it to the principal diet. Should any, however, feel difficulty in filling up the numbers, they can give as a substitute the other half of the query—the number of sittings occupied.

The feeling has also been so strong in favour of including the Synodical schemes in the Congregational Return, that they have been inserted. They will, however, be corrected from the Agents' Books, and from having two separate Returns, the one will form a check upon the other, and fuller guarantees for their mutual correctness be thus afforded.

Owing to the increased size of our Church, it will be impossible for the Committee to present a report to the Synod, unless office-bearers take some pains and care in correctly preparing their Returns and transmitting them punctually to the Presbytery Clerks. Should any of the Blank Forms not reach any of the Congregations, or otherwise go astray, others may be obtained by applying to the Rev. W. Reid, Knox College, Toronto, or to the Clerk of the Presbytery of the bounds.

J. G.

LONDON—OPENING OF NEW CHURCH.

We noticed briefly in our last number the opening of the new church erected by the congregation of the Rev. Mr. Proudfoot. The place of worship formerly