

of the character and efficiency of her spiritual work during the past year: the ruri-decanal Chapter cannot but hail, with deep and heartfelt satisfaction the fact that no less than *sixty-nine adult baptisms* are returned as performed in the deanery during the year. Nothing could give stronger proof than this of the increasing hold which the principles of the Gospel, as set forth and commended by the church, are taking upon the minds of the people. And if *the spiritual work* of the church be progressing we need not have much anxiety concerning the provision for her temporal support. In connection with these observations it is recommended that a new mission be commenced in the township of Ely, where hitherto we have had no resident clergyman and only occasional services.

Notice also may be taken, in this report, of an effort, in the shape of colportage, in the deanery, made under the direction of a committee appointed by the last ruri-decanal Chapter, of which the Rev. D. Lindsay furnished an able and satisfactory statement. A colporteur had been engaged, as an experiment, to labor for three months at a salary of one hundred dollars. Many circumstances combined to interfere with the complete success of this project, which nevertheless may be considered to have afforded encouragement to persevere. In the above mentioned period books to the amount of one hundred and eighteen dollars were sold. Subscriptions to the amount of \$43.00 in money, and \$58.60 in books, were received in aid of the enterprise.

In conclusion the rural dean (as a matter very essential to the right and efficient working of the ruri-decanal system, which has been introduced amongst us) would press upon the clergy and churchwardens of the deanery, the importance of giving him their cordial and hearty support, especially in the matter of collecting statistical information, so valuable and necessary in order to any efficient church legislation in Synod. It is clearly understood that the rural dean acts under the instructions of the bishop, and can pretend to no other right or power than that which is thus officially conveyed to him. It is especially desirable, in order to define the duties of rural deans, that a serious omission on the part of the last Synod should be rectified in the ensuing session. The Report of the Committee on Rural Deans, their powers and duties, although received and adopted, was never made the basis of a canon or code of instructions as it should have been.

In concluding this report, the ruri-decanal Chapter, through the rural dean, desires respectfully to present the above suggestions and information, together with the accompanying schedule containing the statistics of the deanery as collected and prepared by him.

All which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

GEO. SLACK,
Rural Dean.

Dunham, June 3, 1863.