

take in the welfare of our Zion. The hearty response given by the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, St. John, to the frequent calls made upon their liberality; the presence of not a few such unostentatious workers in that congregation, as he was whose obituary appeared in last month's *Record*; the zealous labours of an Edwards in Fredericton, the Rankins in Northampton, and many more, forbid the conclusion that there is no life in the body. At the same time, the few who assemble to take into consideration matters affecting the temporal welfare of the church, and the fewer still that are on ordinary occasions assembled in the prayer meetings, force us to conclude that the warm life-blood is not coursing freely through all the members of the body. Too many are to be found among the professed subjects of our King who are willing to pay the war-tax, or find a substitute, but who are unwilling to do personal service in the field. The protestant idea of the minister is, I fear, lost sight of by the great majority in all the congregations. If they do not interpose him, as a priest, between themselves and their God, and claim from his hands, as an *opus operatum*, that personal holiness without which none shall see God; they do, in too many instances, interpose him between them and their fellow-men.

When a member or adherent in one congregation permanently, or for a time, removes to another part of the same Presbytery, or to a place without its bounds, too seldom is he found intimating to his pastor his intention of removing, and seeking from him letters of dismissal for himself and all the baptized members of his household, or a letter of introduction to the minister of the place to which he is going. The evil resulting from this is aggravated when we do not find the young men of the respective congregations organised into Christian Associations, for the purpose, among other things, of looking after such persons arriving in their neighborhood. Those in the eldership probably, in the good old days of yore, performed for the Church of Scotland, each elder in his district, that which among the Wesleyans is done by the class-leaders now. They exercised a brotherly and kindly supervision over the parts of the flock assigned to them, reproving, advising, sympathising, encouraging. It can scarcely be said, however, that to-day this work is performed by those holding the office in the Presbytery of St. John. I mention the St. John presbytery, simply because I am describing the state of the Church in it, and not because I consider it at all exceptional in this respect.

The efforts put forth in the various congregations within the last two years to erect churches and Sabbath-school buildings, afford, however, a strong refutation of the charge that we are lifeless. Scarce a single congregation within the bounds of the presbytery but has, during that period, been engaged in the work of building.

In St. John, new St. Stephen's Church stands as an ornament to the city, and a testimony to the zeal of those who contributed so liberally to its erection. The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, besides purchasing their magnificent organ, are about building a school-room, which may be more worthy of such a corporation than the one in which their Sabbath-scholars have so long met. In Fredericton, the congregation of St. Paul's Church, last summer, erected a fine spacious session-house and school-room, to meet a want felt for some time past. At Stanley, the people have shown their appreciation of the services of their late pastor, the Rev. Peter Keay, by contributing the means to build a neat little church in that district. In Oak Mountain, a district taken up in connection with Richmond by the Rev. James Kidd, a very respectable little church has been built. In Woodstock, also, during the last two years, our people, though few in numbers, have undertaken the erection of a handsome church. It is now completely finished on the outside; with a school room attached, finished inside with native butter-nut. The congregation has hitherto, since its erection, met in the school-room; but it is desirable that the church,