

with his people ; and it enables every minister to instruct his flock in the duty of supporting the ordinances of the Gospel, without his lying open to the charge of doing so merely to increase his own income.

Notwithstanding all these advantages, the Committee are not prepared to recommend the Synod to attempt to adopt this system for the present. There are various difficulties in the way of such an attempt, all of which might perhaps be got over by degrees, and by prudent and necessary modifications of the system, except one ; that one, the Committee are constrained to state, is the small amount of authority actually possessed or exercised by the Synod over the ministers and members of the Church. To ensure to such a system as that under consideration, even a chance of success, the efficient and harmonious action of every Presbytery, and of every Session, would be requisite. But when has such efficiency or harmony of action been exemplified in the Church, in reference to any subject whatever ? In behalf of Queen's College, for which it might have been anticipated that a universal movement would have been made, the Committee believe that two-thirds of the ministers and sessions have never yet stirred ; and this, notwithstanding the repeated admonitions, injunctions and remonstrances of the Synod. Were the Synod, after mature deliberation, to resolve on the establishment of a great general system, in its character like the Wesleyan, the Committee are persuaded that the result would be only a mortifying proof of its weakness, and that fewer ministers and congregations would be found giving a helping hand to the working of what would then be the authorized system of the Church, than have come forward to give answers to the queries of this Committee. If the Committee state