

the Lord's day will abandon their employment, and the work will be left in the hands of reckless, irreligious men, who, forgetful of their duty to God, cannot be supposed to be very faithful to their earthly masters. Accidents in such circumstances would no doubt become more frequent, and expenses more heavy. While the demoralizing influence would spread like leaven in the community. Self-interest, if no higher motives will be regarded, should lead them to rest on the Sabbath, and afford their servants an opportunity of worshipping God with their families.

The Christian community we trust will not be indifferent or inactive. Now is the time for something to be done. If the evil is allowed to continue, it will spread, or at least become more difficult of removal. Let the friends of the Sabbath consult as to the best course to be adopted. Let there be a free expression of public sentiment, and no effort left untried until a guarantee is obtained that the evil complained of shall cease to exist.

### THE STATISTICAL RETURNS.

The statistics of our Church, so far as the returns have been made, appear in our present number. They are somewhat more perfect than in former years, but it is still to be regretted that there are so many blanks. We do trust that henceforth greater regularity will be observed in regard to this important matter.

In the figures there may be some mistakes although we have revised them with care. But in some instances the Congregational Returns are merely handed in at the Synod, sometimes written merely in pencil, and with so many corrections that it is really hard to decipher them. We have encountered a good many difficulties of this nature. We were in hopes that more of the Returns would have been sent in since the Synod. We have waited for them as long as possible and if the Returns are printed with several blanks the fault is not ours.

In looking over the Returns there is much to encourage us. One encouraging feature is the very considerable additions made to the membership of the Church by examination. In very many Congregations the additions have been very considerable indeed. It is pleasing to see that in regard to financial matters there is a gradual rise. We trust this will still continue and that before another year not one Congregation will be returned as giving less than £100 as stipend. We would have said £150, the sum which according to the Resolutions of Synod both last year and this year should be regarded by Congregations as a minimum; but we know that it would be scarcely reasonable to expect that in a single year all would come up to that. We trust, however, that there will be an effort to come up to that sum at least, and that ere long that mark will be attained.

In looking over the figures it will be seen that different standards of Christian liberality prevail in different sections of the Church. Many Congregations will be found giving far less to the schemes of the Church than the others having no larger membership. Indeed in some Presbyteries

the scale of contribution appears to be lower than others. Ministers should first see that their people have opportunities of giving to all the schemes, and then seek to raise their contributions to a higher and higher standard.

We regret to see that in many large Congregations the contributions to Knox's College are so small. This surely should be regarded as one of the principal Missionary objects of the Church.

In reviewing the whole, let us thankfully acknowledge God's goodness to us as a Church, let us humbly confess our unworthiness and improvement of our talents and opportunities, and seek the reviving and quickening influences of His Spirit that we may bring forth more fruit to His praise and glory.

REV. DR. BAYNE.—We are sorry to learn that the Rev. Dr. Bayne has found it necessary to leave his flock, at least for a time, on account of continued bad health. Before his departure, his congregation presented him with a purse, containing £50, as a token of their attachment and esteem. The Rev. Dr. replied in appropriate terms to the address which accompanied the gift. With reference to his views and prospects for the future he said, "if I have shown a disposition to the dissolution of ties which have now united us for nearly twenty years, most assuredly it was not from any dissatisfaction I ever felt, or had cause to feel, at the feelings or conduct of the Congregation towards me; and if I have spoken with hesitation about my return to Canada as your Pastor, as little has it been from any change in my own feelings towards them. The sole reason has been, the sense of my inability, through continued infirmity of health—a feeling under which I have long laboured—to discharge as I could wish, my pastoral duties among a congregation so extensive. As far as affection and inclination are concerned, I may sincerely say, that it would be in my heart to live and die among you; while apart from congregational ties, I may may well be supposed to feel a deep and undying interest in the extension and consolidation of a Church, in the formation of which at the disputation, I was honoured, in humble measure, to take part, and which I believe has proved in the hand of God, a source of rich spiritual blessing to Canada. Yet at the same time, you will not think it strange, that I should be powerfully influenced by the hope, that in a more congenial climate, and with a lighter charge, I might be able more efficiently and usefully to discharge the duties of an officer so awfully responsible, as that of the ministry."

KNOX'S COLLEGE LIBRARY.—LIBERAL DONATION.—Dr. Willis has received from one friend in Glasgow, a donation of no less than 410 volumes for Knox's College Library. Another friend as kindly agreed to defray the expenses of freight, &c., to Canada.

Dr. Willis has received other donations for the Library and Museum.

CHALMERS' CHURCH, KINGSTON.—The Bible Class connected with the above Church, presented the Rev. R. F. Burns with a handsome token of

their esteem and affection previous to his leaving Kingston. The Congregation parted with him with the deepest regret, and with affectionate wishes for his future comfort and usefulness.

DEATH OF REV. THOMAS PEARSON.—The Rev. Thomas Pearson, of the U. P. Church, Eyemouth, author of the Prize Essay on Infidelity, died lately at Rothessay, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health.

REV. DR. DUFF.—We rejoice to hear that Dr. Duff is considerably improved in health, and is earnestly desirous of returning to his labours in the East. He has lately visited several parts of Italy. The last intelligence is from Malta.

SYNOD MINUTES.—The Minutes are now printed. We purpose sending parcels of them to each Minister for the use of his Congregation. The Congregations of course will pay the expenses. We shall also address a copy to each Elder whose name is on the Synod Roll.

The Editor expects to be absent for some time in the month of August, on a Missionary tour to the neighbourhood of Owen Sound. Communications, however, may be addressed as usual.

DARLINGTON.—We rejoice to hear that the Congregation of Darlington lately presented their Pastor with a purse containing nearly £30, as a token of their esteem of their appreciation of his Pastoral services.

COLLEGE BUILDINGS.—Alexander Gillespie, Esq., of London, has generously handed to the Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal, a contribution of one hundred pounds, towards the erection of a suitable building for Knox's College. Will not nine others come forward and give £100 each, in order to form a nucleus for the fund which we trust will soon be raised?

VAUGHAN.—The Congregation of Vaughan lately presented their pastor, the Rev. William Meldrum, with a handsome and useful Carriage, as an acknowledgment of his pastoral diligence and faithfulness.

GRAFTON AND COLBORNE.—We regret to learn that the Rev. J. W. Smith has been under the necessity of leaving his charge for a short time to recruit his health. His congregation, on the occasion of his leaving them for a time, presented him with a substantial token of their sympathy and regard.

REV. R. URE.—We regret to learn that the vessel in which our esteemed brother sailed for Europe, was wrecked in the straits of Belle Isle. The passengers were all saved, and proceeded to Halifax, whence Mr. Ure sailed by the steamer America.

FREE CHURCH SYNOD, NOVA SCOTIA.—The Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met at Halifax on Thursday 25th Jano. Fifteen Ministers and six Elders were present at the opening of the Synod. The retiring Moderator, the Rev. A. Sutherland, preached an able discourse from 2 Cor. xv. 16. The Rev. M. Wil-