

is \$1091.30. The contributions of Ministers from the first have amounted to about \$700. The Committee are happy to announce that C. D. Hunter, Esq., of Halifax, has promised during the present month a contribution of \$200 to our funds.

The Committee have specially to notice the death of Roderick McGregor, one of their number who took a deep interest in the effort, and was ready to aid us with his accustomed liberality. The Committee recommend

First. That the Synod should give authority to the Committee to appeal to the Congregations throughout the whole Church, and that they be authorized to avail themselves of the aid of the agent of the schemes of the Church, as far as his time will admit, and that each session be enjoined to contribute to the fund, either by collection or by subscription among the members of the several congregations,

Secondly. The Committee further recommend that they be empowered to deal with any cases that may require attention henceforward.

The Rules submitted to Synod in 1869 and sent down to Presbyteries for their consideration are now submitted to Synod for final adoption."

Dr. Murray was appointed a member of the Committee in place of the late R. McGregor.

SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy submitted the Report of Committee on this subject, as follows:

Your Committee on Systematic Beneficence have endeavoured faithfully and fully to carry out the instructions given them last year. It will be remembered that at the last meeting the Synod endorsed the principles that the devotion of our substance to God from right motives is worship, and that weekly storing in proportion to means and income is required by the command of the Lord Jesus. Consequently a recommendation was issued urging the office-bearers, members, and adherents of our Church to adopt the practice of laying by them in store as God should prosper them. To facilitate the realization of the desired end, ministers were enjoined to preach upon the subject, Sessions urged to form congregational associations, and your Committee authorized to issue a Circular to be read to all our congregations, and instructed to ascertain from Sessions what progress they shall have made in the premises in order that an accurate report might be presented to the present meeting of Synod.

CIRCULAR.

Some time before the close of 1870, the Committee issued 150 copies of their first Circular, sent one to each minister of the Church, and distributed the remainder among those Elders who seemed to take the deepest interest in the subject. As the contents of that circular are, or ought to be, known to you all, it is unnecessary to recapitulate them. It will be enough to remind you that the Committee endeavoured to indicate clearly the claims of God upon our property, to state and enforce the recommendations adopted by the Synod, and to supply a felt want in the suggestion of a method to be employed in the inauguration of the effort in our several congregations.

In obedience to their instructions the Committee also about the end of March last issued a Catechetical Circular, addressed to all the Moderators of Sessions, proposing several questions to which an answer was respectfully requested.

RESULTS.

To this Circular only 44 answers have been received. Whether the fathers and brethren who have not favoured us with a reply did not receive our Circular, or thought it too inquisitorial, or felt that they had no very satisfactory answers to give, or allowed the subject to slip out of mind, is not for this Committee to determine. Our duty is done in directing the attention of Synod to the fact that we have not received answers to the Circular which we were instructed to issue from half those to whom we were directed to apply for information. A sufficient number, however, have answered to convince us that the recommendations of the Synod have been very favourably entertained by many of our congregations, and by some most heartily carried into effect. Last year your Committee reported that only two congregations, Primitive Church, New Glasgow, and Poplar Grove, Halifax, had adopted the system of weekly collections for the full support of Gospel ordinances within their own bounds. We have since learned that Bridgewater should have been added to the number. This year we have to report the addition of nine of the forty-three from which we have heard. The congregations of Chalmers' church and St. John's, Halifax, of Dartmouth, Annapolis, Spring-side, Upper Stewiacke, Musquodoboit Harbour, Fredericton, Cornwallis South, and Yarmouth have evinced their loyalty to the Synod by a prompt acceptance and adoption of the recommendations. Besides these there are a few congregations some sections of which have acceded to the plan, others which have adopted it for the raising of the funds required for the general