

the accomplishment of this work, are most anxious to meet their wishes, and have heretofore endeavored to do so.

Report on Statistics.

The valuable work of Rev. Dr. Torrance is again shown in the report of the Committee on Statistics. To the committee the figures live, and to the Church they ought to be eloquent reminders of her ever present duty.



REV. DR. TORRANCE,
Convener of Committee on Statistics.

It would be gratifying to your committee, says the convener, were they able to present a report which had no shadow, no drawback—one which testified to progress in every particular. It would be matter of unfeigned thanksgiving. Ought it not to be matter of prayer, and, therefore, of expectation, if it could be declared that there was an ingathering of souls from the world into the bonds of the covenant proportionate to the strength and influence of the Church, that the people in all respects gave evidence of their appreciation of their Gospel privileges, and walked in the due improvement of them, that Christian fellowship was maintained, its blessedness felt and its benefits enjoyed, and gave proof that they had received the grace of giving in proportion to their ability under the bestowments of Providence. But, generally speaking, this has not been the case with the Church from the beginning. Only seldom, and at rare intervals, if it extended beyond the early part of the Apostolic period, when the outpouring and power of the Holy Ghost were so strikingly manifest, has the Church come up to her ability in attainment and effort. But while the report has shadows, it has also lights. If there are some things in which there are shortcomings, compared with preceding years, there are other things in which there has been a surpassing of these, furnishing abundant reason to thank God and take courage. It may be stated in one sentence that there has been advancement in almost everything connected with internal prosperity in home life and work.

In one of the paragraphs of the Report of your Committee presented to the last General Assembly mention was made of the dilatoriness of some Kirk Sessions and Boards of Managers in sending in their reports to Presbyteries, of the unnecessary delay thus caused to these in reporting to your Committee, and of the limitation of time to which the Committee were subjected in preparing their report for the printer, so as to be ready for the meeting of the Supreme Court. There is reason to mention the same dilatoriness and delay with still greater emphasis for the past year, with the inconvenience of which it has been productive. Although the time is stated in the schedules sent out to congregations and Mission Stations when they should be returned filled up to their Presbyteries, and in the sheets sent down to the latter for collecting and tabulating these returns when they should be forwarded to the Committee, and although notice was published in the papers issued in both Toronto and Halifax that the Convener intended to place in the printer's hands by the 20th of April all the Presbytery reports in his possession—and this he did on the 21st—yet some were not in till after the beginning of May, two months later than the date at which they should have been received.

STATISTICS.

In the number of Churches and Stations constituting charges—2,412—there is an increase over 1894 of 73; but in the sitting accommodation provided in these—510,722—there is a falling off of 6,795. The number of Families was 96,581, an increase of 3,216; and of Single Persons, 27,209, an increase of 6,078; while Communicants numbered 183,180, or 8,601 more than the preceding year. There was a decrease of 820 on those joining the Church on their profession of faith in Christ—12,102; but an increase of 249 on those joining by certificate—7,699. The removals by death were 2,699, or 179 more than in 1894; by certificate, 6,260, 40 fewer; without certificate, 3,364, an increase of 262; and by discipline, 102, an increase of 51.

The aggregate of the numbers reported as being under Pastoral Oversight—224,806—show an increase of 23,610, but it must be remarked, as was done in the report of the Committee last year, that this is far from the number actually enjoying what is meant by "Pastoral Oversight." By some Sessions the question is not understood, and there is reason to fear that there are others who do not know how many they are for whose souls they are bound to watch, and who take greater or less interest in the ordinances of grace in the congregations in which they exercise rule.

There was a decrease in the number of Baptisms, both of Infants—10,653—and of Adults—1,398; in the former case of 376 and in the latter of 62. There were in the Ruling Eldership, 6,742 persons, an increase of 272; and the other office bearers number 10,546, an increase of 520.

The attendance at the Weekly Prayer Meeting—63,571—gives an increase of 1,288; and on Sabbath School and Bible Class, 153,064, an increase of 8,425; and there were 17,910, an increase of 477, engaged in Sabbath School work. There was a decrease of 11 in Missionary Associations—335; an increase of 58 in Woman's Foreign Mission

Societies—731; there were 667 Woman's, Young People's, or Young People's Home Missionary Societies. Missions appear to have increased from 618 to 626, with 60 rented houses, an increase of 11; and 18 manse, 10 fewer than the former year, and 48 churches were built, a decrease of 2.

FINANCES.

In 1895 the Stipend received from all sources was \$908,781, which was an increase on the previous year of \$8,633. Stipend paid by congregation alone was \$337,068, giving an increase of \$3,283. There was also an increase in the Arrears of Stipend due at the end of the year of \$1,240—the whole arrears being \$10,038.

Congregations expended on Church or Manse, \$424,820, an increase of \$9,470; and on other strictly Congregational Objects, \$484,304, an increase of \$9,165. The total amount paid for Congregational Purposes, including Stipend with the two items just mentioned, was \$1,746,698, showing an increase of \$26,610.

Passing over the next two items because of the incompleteness of the returns, we come to the Colleges as the first of the Schemes of the Church. The income was \$20,869 for Ordinary Purposes, which was \$2,383 less than in 1894; and for Special, \$11,324, which was \$6,361 less.

The contributions to the Home Mission Fund, \$65,152, was \$1,440 of an increase, but in each of the following there were decreases: Augmentation, \$30,929, decrease, \$478; French Evangelization, \$23,202, decrease, \$2,037; Foreign Mission Fund by congregation alone, \$5,493, decrease, \$1,758; but in the receipts from the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, \$50,546, there was an increase of \$1,770. The Payments to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$9,718, were \$859 less; to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Endowment Fund, \$3,585, were \$2,420 less; to Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$5,759, were \$105 more; to the Assembly Expense Fund, \$3,980, were \$74 more. The column on Jewish Missions was discontinued, as the Mission has been abandoned, but in 1894 contributions to the amount of \$1,044 had been received. To Coligny College, \$4,541 were given in 1894, and in 1895, \$235.

The total contributions to the Schemes of the Church for the year, were \$279,494, or \$15,946 less than the previous year.

Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, or Christian Endeavor Societies raised \$13,720 towards one or more of the Schemes of the Church, or \$10,865 less than in 1894. The payments to the Home Mission Fund by Woman's, Young Peoples', Young Peoples' Home Mission Society, were \$8,491, or \$2,697 in excess of the preceding year.

Synod and Presbytery Funds received \$3,369, a decrease of \$254; and all other Benevolent and Religious Purposes received \$100,529 an increase of \$3,178.

Payments for All Purposes, \$2,134,990, an increase of \$8,003.

Your Committee, as usual, present a Table of Averages, showing the average contribution per family and communicant for Stipend, all Congregational Objects, the Schemes of the Church, and All Purposes.

Widows' And Orphans' Fund.

(WESTERN SECTION.)

The committee reports a revenue

Balance at Cr., 1st May, 1896.....	\$ 932 68
Congregational contributions and bequests..	5,843 44
Ministers' rates.....	2,641 19
Interest.....	6,088 13
Investments repaid.....	15,718 54
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	\$20,092 18

It is to be regretted that the congregational contributions are this year \$1,224 less than last. It is to be feared that there is a misapprehension in the minds of not a few as to the needs of the



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Fund. The Endowment is not nearly sufficient, as some have supposed, to meet the ever-increasing demands. This year the income from all sources was \$3,590.78 short of the expenditure. This fact should be brought prominently before every congregation in the Church. The Fund has suffered from depreciation in the value of property on which investments had been made and also from a reduction in the rate of interest.

It is very desirable that every minister at his ordination should connect himself with the Fund; and that all who are in arrears should pay their dues as soon as possible.