

thankful if we have even a reasonable prospect of, in such times, shewing, in some measure, a satisfactory balance-sheet.

It is very vexing to notice the state of the Theological and Synod Funds. Surely the Church will not allow these heavy adverse balances to continue till the Synod!

Begging your pardon for such a lengthened intrusion upon your valuable space,

I am, &c.,

M. S.

P.S.—I could have wished to have noticed the letter of the Rev. Jas. Watson, and attempted to shew the fallacy that runs through it. Good natured as you are, however, I could not expect you, after all this, to afford me the smallest corner for such a purpose.

REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SYNOD.

To the Editor of the Canadian U. P. Magazine.

SIR,—As several articles have recently appeared in your pages respecting the Statistics of our church, and the returns to be made by congregations, permit me, as one of the managers of a congregation which made no return last year, and which will make none this, to say a few words on this, and some kindred subjects.

The reason which actuated some of us in refusing to make a return was this:—We thought, and I dare say others have thought, that it was needless to encumber the Presbytery Clerk with waste paper; and such the Synod, by neglecting to enforce these congregational returns, has virtually said it considers them. Were the Synod to shew proper respect for itself by enforcing obedience to its orders and reprimanding those congregations which fail to make returns, and Presbytery Clerks neglecting to produce their minutes at the meetings of the Synod, then we should see that the information to be derived from these sources is valued, and no one would be more willing than myself to furnish it. But until the Synod act thus, I for one will consider these returns as not really desired.

That our church in this Province is not at present in a healthy state is evident. No one who reads your Magazine and sees perpetually announced in its pages that this, and the other, minister has resigned his charge and had his name placed on the preacher's list, or gone home to Scotland, or betaken himself to some other calling, can doubt the fact. I may not see all the causes for this, nor can I point out a cure, but I would call attention to one or two points in regard to which a change is desirable.

Why is it that our ministers take so little interest in the affairs of the church? Why have they so little *esprit de corps* among them? Take for example the opening and closing of the Divinity Hall. How few attend—six is a large number, and then when spoken to on the