

reach of supply, which can be furnished without cost to the church, thirdly the vacant charge able and willing to support a pastor, and looking for one, and fourthly the vacant charge disheartened by its weakness, and which must be aided by supplement, or remain without a pastor, and becoming demoralized, actually 'for-sake the assembling of themselves together,' as alas 'the manner of some is,' and some of whom better things might be expected. If the first and last call for practical sympathy, which means help in money, should it not be given cheerfully? Such then is the kind of work for the promotion of which our Home Mission funds are asked and to which they are applied.

P. G. MACGREGOR.

Halifax, Sept. 5th '81.

### Christian Giving.

ART. NO. 2.

Though the system of tithing was binding upon the Jews, yet there was no ecclesiastical law by which obedience could be enforced. It was left with the consciences of the people whether they would comply with the demands of justice or not.

As it was with the Jews, so it is with us in New Testament days. And how do we as a Christian people comply with the demands of justice? We enjoy large blessings and greater privileges than did the Jews; do we give correspondingly larger contributions towards the advancement of Christ's cause and God's glory in the world?

One of the questions of the "Formula for the Admission of Members," in the late Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces ran thus:—"Do you promise to contribute of your substance as God may prosper you for the advancement of His cause?" Now how many of our people have tried faithfully and conscientiously to fulfil that solemn promise?

### WHAT THE TABLES SAY.

Looking at the Statistical and Financial Returns of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for last year we find that the average contributions per family for the schemes of the Church were \$2.62 per family, and per communicant, \$1.61. "The schemes of the Church" mean Home and Foreign Missions, French Evangelization, Colleges, etc. Now I think that we should judge the liberality of our people not by the amount of money they give to build elegant and costly churches and to support ordinances in their own congregations, but by the amount they give to send the Gospel to others and to evangelize the world.

The Saviour's commission is: "Go preach the Gospel to every creature." How are we carrying out that commission? Last year the average amount contributed by each communicant to Foreign Missions was a little more than 20 cents. TWENTY CENTS given by each of the professed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to save those who are perishing for lack of knowledge! Nay, how many did not give even twenty cents! One congregation comprising 190 families and 200 communicants and paying a salary of \$2000 to the minister gave only \$14.00 (Fifteen Dollars) for Foreign Missions or 7½ cents per communicant. Doubtless many of our people and congregations do nobly; but few, if any, do what they should.

### HARD TIMES.

To what cause are we to attribute the smallness of our contributions to the cause of Christ? It cannot be the scarcity of money or the "hardness of the times." The "hardness of the times" has been a convenient plea for those who are willing to avail themselves of any excuse for robbing God. How many of our Christians make the *goodness of the times* a cause for bringing liberal gifts to the Lord's treasury? Many of those who plead the scarcity of money can find money for other purposes.

### CHEAP RELIGION.

In one of our congregations the mini-