

consideration the whole subject of gospel support ; to obtain all useful information regarding it, and to disseminate it through the Church."

The Committee remark :—

"Much has been said, and well said, as to the duty of giving for gospel support, and the vast importance of the Church being aroused to the deep and grave consideration of her responsibilities and privileges, in regard to that matter ; but there seems to have been comparatively little attention paid to the question of the best machinery for aiding the development of the liberality of the Church—for strengthening and expanding the grace of liberality : there has been little done in the exhibition of the comparison of the results of different systems of temporal economy, so far as regards practical arrangements for gathering in the contributions of the membership of the church, which arrangements are nevertheless of vast importance to a successful result.

It is quite true, that a large outpouring of the influences of the Spirit will draw forth the grace of liberality, and manifest that grace practically, in spite of any defects in external arrangements ; yet it is also true, that *judicious* practical measures for gathering in the church's liberality, or measures of a contrary description, may do much as a means to the increase or the injury of that grace, independently of the difference in the practical results.

Certain grave assertions have been made, as to the short endurance of the pastoral relationship, even in those denominations where there is no circulating ministry ; as to the existence of a startling amount of ill-health amongst the ministry, and that such is greatly owing to the want of the means of bodily support : and, further, of gross injustice in the non-fulfilment of pecuniary obligations of congregations to their pastors, and that in difficulties between congregations and their pastors, church courts flinch from doing their duty."

In order to be able to test different systems by their results, the Committee solicit full information on the following points :—

1. As to raising a pastor's salary by pew rents.
2. Raising salary by subscriptions payable annually or semi-annually or quarterly in advance.
3. Raising salary by collecting small sums weekly or monthly, through agency of collectors.
4. Paying salary subscriptions in equivalent value of *goods*.
5. Effects of donation parties as a system.
6. Effects of salary being paid mainly from other sources than the direct contributions of the congregation, such as from a "Book Concern," or some other general fund or local endowment.
7. Value of bonds for salary, and to what extent they are enforced.
8. Effects of pastors' carrying on some other business to supplement salary ; especially, instances of dissolution of the pastoral relation, through disputes in money transactions connected with such other business.
9. Instances of dissolution of pastoral relation through non-payment of salary.
10. Where congregations are noted for frequent dismissal of pastors, whether such congregations were punctual in payment of pastor's salary ; and, if not, whether dissatisfaction with his services was ordinarily expressed *after* or *before* the congregation fell behind in their contributions.
11. Cases of pastoral relation being broken up by ill health of the pastor, and where, at the same time, his salary had not been paid.
12. Cases of ministers being "starved out," through the withdrawal of the contributions of the friends and connexions of some member whom the minister may have rebuked, or with whom the minister may have had a difficulty.
13. Cases of gross discrepancy between the expenditure of the congregation in other things, and their expenditure for gospel support.
14. Results of the annual publication for distribution amongst the members of a balance sheet exhibiting the contributions of each member of a congregation.
15. Effect of publication by Presbyteries of the contributions of each of the congregations, not only for Foreign Missions, but for the support of their own pastors.