

Your Committee, whilst not desirous of creating any unnecessary alarm in respect to our financial affairs, would nevertheless urgently press upon your attention the fact which is but too painfully apparent from the statement hereunto appended, that our church revenue from weekly contributions and ordinary collections, the two fixed sources, is both inadequate and declining and along with it the fact scarcely less painful and discouraging, namely, that there is still a considerable number of our people, as reported by your Committee last year, who contribute little or nothing towards the funds of the church. This last will become apparent to any person well acquainted with the congregation who will glance over the list of contributors from year to year.

On referring to the said statement you will find that, whilst the number of contributors have increased from 177 in the year 1888 to 216, or somewhat over 22 per cent., in 1891, the annual receipts from the sources named have fallen off in the same period from \$4,724.66 in 1888, or an average of about \$27.00 per contributor, to \$4,266.90 in 1891, or an average of \$19.75 per contributor; or, in other words, whilst there has been an increase of about 22 per cent. in the number of contributors, there has been a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. in the average contribution per contributor, resulting altogether in an actual decrease in the annual revenue from these sources of \$457.76.

Your Committee, being fully convinced by the above showing that we must as a congregation, either materially increase our aggregate contributions (and this can only be done by conscientious individual effort) or diminish our disbursements, and with them our usefulness,—have no apology to offer for pressing the question “which shall it be?” upon your attention at the beginning of another year as *the question* of the hour, and one that demands the careful and prayerful consideration of every member and adherent of this church.

We are unable to suggest any direction in which retrenchment in expenditure can safely be ventured upon; on the contrary we have felt, and still feel, that there are many things that should have been done by us in connection with our church edifice and Sabbath School, to render them more attractive and comfortable, which must remain undone for want of necessary funds. And we cannot help feeling, while scanning the contribution lists, that ample funds for all necessary purposes would readily be placed at the disposal of your Committee if the present occupants of our pews would but emulate in a higher degree in the matter of giving the noble band of Christians, through whose heroic efforts, under the blessing of our God, this beautiful structure was reared, and through whose energy and liberality the ordinances of God's house have all along, to a large extent, been maintained therein.