

blessing on the ministration of the word and ordinances. There is much complaint of the secularity of spirit which pervades the mass of the people, and of the consequent low state of religious feeling and principle. But is the Spirit of the Lord straitened? Is His hand shortened, that it cannot save? Is His ear heavy that it cannot hear? We know that the selfish, careless neglect of the temple and its ordinances in ancient times was specially mentioned by God Himself as the ground of withholding His favour. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, consider your ways, go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord. Ye looked for much, and lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

It is then, not only with the view of seeking to raise the standard of ministerial support, but of promoting the interests of the church in every way, that the Synod at its last meeting unanimously passed a series of resolutions bearing upon the subject.

These are as follows:—

"1. That the Synod, impressed with the conviction that the stipends of the ministers of this church are generally inadequate for their comfortable maintenance, resolve to aim after a *minimum* stipend of six hundred dollars (\$600) along with a manse for each minister.

"2. That with a view to the accomplishment of this end, a general and simultaneous movement shall be made by means of deputations, for the purpose of visiting and conferring with all the congregations of the church on the subject referred to.

"3. That the Synod accordingly resolve to appoint a committee to arrange with the Presbyteries of the church for the visits of such deputations during the present year, and to report to the next meeting of Synod the result of their labours."

In accordance with these resolutions, the committee have sought to carry out the purpose of their appointment by making arrangements for deputations to visit all the congregations of the church. This has been done, for the sake of convenience, and in order to save expense, by an interchange of Deputies from neighbouring Presbyteries. Four Deputies from Hamilton will go to London, and four from London to Hamilton. In the same way Stratford and Huron interchange—Paris and Guelph—Cobourg and Kingston. Montreal interchanges with Ottawa and Brockville, and Toronto with Grey and Ontario. The pulpits of Deputies from one Presbytery will be supplied by the Deputies from the other Presbytery, and by the ministers whose pulpits these latter may supply on the other Sabbath. Hence the necessity of the movement being simultaneous, beginning on the 15th September.

It is proposed that the Deputies along with Elders or other competent members of the church, as the Presbytery may determine, should visit all the congregations within the bounds. It may be that some congregations are so far discharging their duty to their ministers, as that they do not stand in need of any visit. Still, in order to prevent anything like an invidious distinction among congregations, to maintain the principle of brotherhood and equality as Presbyterian ministers, to manifest unitedness