

### REMARKS ON THE STATISTICAL TABLE.

The Table now presented exhibits returns from 117 pastoral charges, and 6 blanks. Another return has just been received, too late for insertion; but the leading features of it will be noticed at the close of the present article.

Of the 117 charges, 18 were vacant during the whole or some part of the year 1868—leaving 99 returns on which to base our calculations respecting the average rate of stipend. In one of these, that from Bermuda, the sum contributed by the people is not distinguished from the Government grant, which provides the greater part of the salary; so that in estimating the average rate of contribution per family, this return also has been excluded.

In comparing the rates of contribution in different parts of the church, various circumstances have to be taken into account. An exceptionally high rate is due, in some instances, to a special effort in church building, which recurs, in the history of a congregation, only twice or three times in a century. Then regard must be had to the difference between town and country.—In a city money is cheaper, relatively to the labour that earns it, than in a rural district, and passes more freely through the hands of the people. Hence the rate of contribution is naturally higher in cities than in the country; whilst a congregation in a small town, consisting partly of a mercantile and artisan and partly of an agricultural population, occupies an intermediate position between the two extremes.—There is, no doubt, some difficulty in drawing the line of demarcation between one class of congregations and another; but it is better to attempt the classification, though it should be done somewhat roughly, than to ignore the subject altogether.

Let us, then, call Halifax, St. John, N.B. and St. John, Nfld., cities; and Picton, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Sherbrooke, Annapolis, Dartmouth, Windsor, Yarmouth, Charlottetown, Truro and Fredericton, towns. Our 98 returns, distributed into three classes, will yield the following results:—

No. charges.	No. fam.	Contributed.	Rate per fam.
7 city.....	835	\$16929 44	\$20 27
14 town.....	1514	18477 03	12 20
77 rural.....	9388	64216 53	6 84
98	11737	\$90623 00	\$8 49

Let us now look at the supplemented congregations. The rates of contribution vary widely, from \$1.90 at Plaister Cove to over \$21 at Moncton and Annapolis; but the average falls slightly under the general average of rural congregations. The figures stand thus:—28 congregations, comprising 2061 families, contribute \$12740.17, rate \$6.13 per family. This result may reasonably be accepted as on the whole satisfactory, for some of the supplemented congregations are in districts where the population are suffering from deep poverty. Still it would be well if congregations whose rate is far below average, would consider whether they might not, by a more sedulous culture of the grace of liberality, and by a more efficient organization, rise to a higher position in this matter than they at present occupy.

Let us turn from the weak to the strong congregations, and observe the effect of having large numbers aggregated together in one pastoral charge. There are 30 congregations which consist of 140 families and upwards.

I. Two city charges in St. John, N.B., families 280—contributions \$3321.09—rate \$11.86—far below the average of their class.

II. Four town charges, in New Glasgow, Pictou, Antigonish and Truro—families 691—contributions \$6295.87—rate \$9.11—also under the average of their class.

III. Twenty-four rural charges—families 4532—contributions \$26931.57—rate \$5.94—still under the average of their class. We may remark, however, that the average of this class is raised by the exceptional expenditure of \$6600 on church building at Shubenacadie. If this item be deducted, it will reduce the general average of the rural congregations to \$6.14, and that of the large rural congregations to \$4.49, being \$1.65 per family below average of the class.

Let us now limit our attention to congregations of 200 families and upwards.—