

And further, that during the last few years about 14 have withdrawn their pecuniary support from the Church in consequence of our advocacy of total abstinence; that in twenty-six congregations progress appears to have been made in the temperance reform; that in and around seven the cause seems to be losing ground; and that in seven more it is extremely difficult to say whether or not any progress is being made; that about the one-half of the communicants of this Church are total abstainers, while a large majority are very temperate, if not total abstainers in practice; and that in the case of several, while the cause seems to be making progress in the Church, in the surrounding community over which the Church has no control, drunkenness and all its degrading concomitants are largely on the increase, or as one highly esteemed brother expresses it, "The temperate are becoming more decidedly temperate, but the drunken are becoming more desperately drunken."

Contemplating these facts, your Committee are persuaded that in so far as a considerable portion of our community is concerned, we may well adopt the language of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America in their narrative on the state of religion. "It seems as if the efforts of the virtuous in past years to stay the onward sweep of intemperance had resulted only as a temporary dam across the stream, to heave back and pile up the accumulating waters for a surge upon us that now bids defiance to all hindrance, inflicting present and threatening future ills of unparalleled magnitude. None who mingle with their fellow men, and certainly no minister of the Gospel, need be told what crowds of men are thus imbruted, what numbers of women but a few years since so happy and hopeful are doomed to the slow, the awful martyrdom of the drunkard's wife; what hordes of children are beggared in their lives and ruined in their morals. \* \* \* Every interest of patriotism, humanity and religion pleads for every effort that can be hopefully put forth for the hindrance and, if it may be, for the extinction of this advancing and threatening evil."

It well becomes an enlightened Synod who revere the authority that commands, "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup," and who believe the declarations "That wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise;" "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, or any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak;" It well becomes an assembly of ministers and elders, who believe all this, deeply to deplore any tendency to revive the drinking customs, and cheerfully to throw the whole weight of their moral influence and of their ecclesiastical authority, in favor of total abstinence and the suppression of intemperance.

Influenced by these considerations, we, as a Committee, would humbly recommend to your reverend Court to adopt the following, or similar resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That in view of the state of our Church and community in these Lower Provinces, as now brought under our notice, we regard ourselves as under special obligations to advocate by persuasion and example the principles of total abstinence.

2. *Resolved*, That the Ministers of this Synod be earnestly recommended to co-operate with the friends of temperance, in their several fields of labor, in all judicious efforts for the success of the cause, to preach at least one sermon in the year on temperance, and to refer to it occasionally in their sermons.

3. *Resolved*, That the Synod do strictly enjoin on Sessions and Presby-