

territory that he cannot concentrate his labours in any one place so as to produce the spirit we witness in more highly favoured localities. Many of the good brethren labouring in these widely scattered congregations have the true missionary spirit. They are worthy men, good scholars, talented preachers, devoted self-sacrificing servants of Christ, who, while struggling with hardship, are working up nuclei of future self-sustaining congregations. They are often disheartened and sometimes neglected, but God shall reward them for their self-denial, and future generations shall reap with joy the fruit that shall grow from the seed they now sow in tears.

Thus the hindrances to religion are much the same as they were in the days of our fathers, and not very different from what they were in the days of the Apostles, and may be comprehended in these three "the devil, the world, and the flesh."

#### ENCOURAGEMENTS.

We are thankful to God that we are able to report many things which should encourage our ministers, and their co-workers in God's vineyard, to persevere in their labours of love. In the seventy congregations from which we have received returns, 725 have been added to the communion of the Church by the profession of their faith during the past year. We do not now speak of those who have been received by certificate. If the same number in proportion have been added to the communion in other congregations, we have more than 1400 new communicants. We have reason to believe that the hearts of the great majority of those who have thus professed Christ, have been opened by the Spirit of God, and quickened by the life of Jesus. Should we not be encouraged when we find so many professing to be brought out of darkness into God's marvellous light, and voluntarily consecrating themselves to Christ and His cause. Surely with such an acquisition to the membership of the Church—with such an addition of fellow-labourers, whose souls we hope are touched with heavenly fire, we should thank God, take courage, and go forward.

The prayer-meetings have been kept up with remarkable life regularity and vigour in some of our congregations, and the lay members in many instances have taken an active, earnest part in their exercises. Many of our ministers have been greatly encouraged by the earnestness evinced at the prayer-meetings. This has especially been the case within the bounds of the Presbytery of P. E. Island. The weekly prayer-meetings in some of those congregations have multiplied into the daily or nightly. Many have come to meetings of enquiry, and wished to be conversed with on relig-

ious subjects, and prayed for to God, and many have expressed their hope in Christ, and more rejoice in salvation. In one of those congregations the sale of intoxicating liquors has greatly diminished since this religious revival has commenced, and one hundred and nineteen have been added to the communion. The return from another congregation states that "over one hundred are hopefully converted, and the blessed work is still going on." Surely the hearts of God's people should rejoice, and God whose promises are yea and amen, should be praised, "not unto us Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the praise for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake."

The Bible classes and Sabbath Schools are on the whole in a healthy condition. Many of our ministers are amply remunerated for their labours in the Bible class by the large attendance, and increased interest manifested. In one congregation as many as 500 attend the Bible class. In many of the Sabbath Schools the teachers are earnest, and the pupils attentive. From these nurseries we trust, will arise in a few years many who will be pillars in the Church.

The liberality of the people in supporting religious ordinances is steadily increasing, imparting the hope that Christian truth is taking deeper hold on their hearts and consciences.

The great majority of our ministers during the past year have been encouraged by an increased attendance of their people on the ordinances of religion, and especially on the services of the sanctuary. They witness an increased solemnity in their assemblies, and a greater desire to promote the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

On the whole we should thank God and take courage. The God of our fathers is the Faithful One and the True. If we perform our duty He will save His people, we may rely on His word. He will give the Holy Ghost to them that ask Him. Let us earnestly pray for a deeper spirituality to rest upon our ministers for the spirit of Christian consecration to descend upon our members, and of earnest enquiry, to arouse the unconverted. "Awake, O North wind and come thou South, blow upon my garden that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into His garden and eat His pleasant fruits."

All which is respectfully submitted,

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Convener of Committee on State of Religion.

The Report was adopted, and the recommendations of the Committee agreed to. Very interesting addresses were delivered by several members of Synod.