

ous objects the sum of £800 has been granted. For Italy a special appeal was made to the church in September, and the response was very satisfactory, enabling the Board to make the following liberal grants, viz.: For the Waldensian College, now removed from La Tour to Florence, £500, and for Printing, Schools, and Colportage, under the superintendence of the ministers of Leghorn and Florence, £500. The objects thus aided have done much for the spiritual good of Italy.

We thus see that the Church in Ireland is actively engaged in missionary efforts, both at home and abroad. During the past year the following sums have been raised for the various schemes of the Church:—

Assistant Minister's Fund,...	£504	9	6
Evangelization of Italy,	1,354	0	9
R. Catholic Mission,	2,435	6	5
Home Mission, (for supplementing the resources of weak, or planting new congregations,)	2,603	5	3
Jewish Mission,	2,336	12	2
Colonial and Continental Mission,	1,637	12	3
Church and Manse Fund,	226	14	9

Total,

£13,381 3 10

In addition to the above sums, the amount of £155 was contributed for the relief of suffering Christians in Syria, and £288 for the Dublin Mission Church, while the sum of upwards of £5,000 was in the course of last year expended from funds previously collected for the Church and Manse Fund.

It is stated that "less than forty years ago, when the present Dr. Cooke began, with others, to denounce Arianism, and to lift the old blue banner on the Ulster Hills, the whole of the Irish Presbyterian Church did not contribute more than £200 per annum, and that for Home Missions alone". For the mighty contrast, and for the great moral and spiritual change thus indicated, there should be experienced and manifested the deepest gratitude to God, whose grace hath wrought such great things for His people.

Synodical Reports.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee on the State of Religion regret that the indisposition of their respected Convener has deprived them of his valuable assistance in drawing up their Report, and in consequence, it had to be more hurriedly prepared, and is of less value and interest than it would be otherwise.

Reports on the State of Religion have been furnished by most Presbyteries; from Kingston one has been received. It appears from these, that at least one conference on this momentous subject has been held in five Presbyteries, little more than

one half of the whole Presbyteries of the Church; these are, Toronto, London, Montreal, Cobourg, and Brockville, which last stands far in advance of all the others in this matter, having had frequent meetings on this subject. It may be proper to state, that the corresponding members from Hamilton and Ottawa say, that the reason for their neglect is that other unexpected and most pressing business came up in each of these Presbyteries at the time at which it should have held this conference.

Missionary Meetings seem to be held in all the Presbyteries, from which reports have been received, except Hamilton, in which these have been neglected for some years.

The day of Thanksgiving was generally observed. The call to united prayer in January was generally responded to, and led in various instances to union meetings, some of which were held daily, some weekly, and others occasionally.

There seem to be at least one Sabbath School and one Bible Class in connection with nearly all, if not with every congregation in the Church; a few have several accessions to their membership. All the reports express the opinion that these are tokens for good; they generally speak of increased attendance on the means of grace, both of young and old, or of a growing seriousness and attention to divine things; and in one instance, viz., that of Brockville, to an increase of liberality. One or two reports speak of increased desire to make a profession of religion. But these only speak directly of apparent conversions to the Lord, and these seem few; but occurring, as they appear to do, at points widely separate, the Committee feel more confidence in hoping they may prove the first drops of an early and great outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

The reports indicate that all the ordinary agencies for promoting the conversion of sinners to God, and the upbuilding of His people, are earnestly wrought, and the gospel fully and faithfully preached; and yet all deplore that they are so much like a wilderness—a broken vessel. And while your Committee cannot but feel sorry that so little real solid and direct good is ascertained to be done, yet they think there is ground for some hope in that there appears to be a growing desire among both office-bearers and members for the outpouring of the Spirit and the reviving of God's work in the land.

But while expressing such a hope, the Committee cannot conceal their fears, that the tokens that are apparent may pass away without the salvation of souls. The cloud which the anxious husbandman thinks is to water his parched fields may pass, and the tokens of awakening may, yea must do so also, unless an awakening, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit is early felt; and the Committee are anxious that the Synod should direct its most serious and prayerful attention to the question—how may we avoid the danger we are in?—that the present hopeful appearances may have no satisfactory issue.

There are hindrances to the progress of the work; those specially mentioned in the returns from Presbyteries are, intemperance and worldliness; but were there no outward hindrance of a positive kind, there

are others which lie more at our own doors, arising from the neglect of duty both by ministers and elders, and members of the church. The Committee feel that we have cause to deplore that our religion is far from being of that full soul-elevating character which it ought to be, and that consequently we are not so markedly living epistles of Christ so known and read of all men, as we should aim at being, that others may be led to glorify our Father who is in heaven; and they would respectfully, yet seriously, call the attention of the Synod to this, convinced, as they are, that if a revival is granted to us, it must begin in the hearts of God's people, and will shew itself in a more fervent and self-sacrificing love to God, and more earnest effort to do everything with a direct aim for advancing His glory and the good of our fellow men.

The returns contain various suggestions for promoting this object. Several urge that the duty of prayer should be pressed alike on ministers and people: that there should be much and earnest prayer, both in private and in all our meetings. One recommends, in addition, that a sermon be preached at each stated meeting of Presbytery, and that the remaining portion of the first diet, at each of such meetings, should be spent in conference on this subject and in prayer. Another recommends conference on this subject, and prayer at each stated meeting.

But the Presbytery of Brockville has the honor of setting an example in attending to these matters. Others speak of these things. They do them. The Committee, deeply impressed with the importance of doing so, strongly recommend that each presbytery be enjoined to hold a conference on this subject at each quarterly meeting and that this have the precedence of all other business. One corresponding member urges that Presbyterial visitation be practised, both to the remedying of what may be amiss in the outward business of the house of God, and the ascertaining and improving the spiritual condition of each congregation. This also the Presbytery of Brockville do, and the Committee would gladly see practised. Another suggestion which the Committee would recommend also, is, that each member of the Church be held bound to work for the Lord, and that office-bearers endeavor to assign work to each, and to set them to do it.

The Committee feel also that great care be taken in the admission of members into the fellowship of the Church, and that every effort should be made to have conversation really profitable to one another. We have all cause to lament that we have failed more in this duty than perhaps in any other, and our neglect is both a token of a want of deep spirituality, and a means of hindering its growth.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN McTAVISH, Convener.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUXTON MISSION, 13th JUNE, 1861.

In presenting the Tenth Annual Report of the Buxton Mission to the Synod, I do it with a deeper conviction than ever of the growing importance of the work, and I humbly believe that the favour of God which has hitherto attended this effort to improve the social and moral condition of the colored race is a sure pledge that there are greater