

have been established ; one hundred and twenty-six cottage prayer meetings are held every week ; seven hundred and thirty classes of Church members have been formed ; one hundred and forty-nine Sabbath-schools instituted, with an average attendance of nine thousand three hundred and twelve children ; ninety-two Bible classes, and twenty-five day schools have been formed ; fifty-five thousand eight hundred and eighty-three domiciliary visits were paid by the home missionaries during the year ; the income from all sources is \$156,285, an increase of \$7,585 over that of the preceding year.

Mr. Prest gave a further *viva voce* report, in which he called attention to the marvellous growth of some towns in England, rendering it necessary that vigorous means should be adopted to supply the people with the bread of life. The state of the villages was not forgotten, where Ritualism so much abounds, in many of which there are no Nonconformists of any kind. He appealed earnestly for men of energy, "not men who must go home and sleep in their own beds every night ; and we do not want men who cannot sleep unless it is in bed ; we want men who will put up with roughing it, who will take things as they find them, and who, if sneered at or pelted, will not mind it." Speaking of the army, he paid a noble tribute to the late Sir Hope Grant, whose conversion to God was thus effected : "While returning home one evening he came upon some private soldiers who were holding a prayer meeting. He stopped to listen, and what he then heard was the means used by the Holy Spirit to lead him to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour. From that time his whole influence was used for God's glory in his regiment, where he conducted a Bible-class for years, which was largely attended by his men. He was a friend to total abstinence, and presided at many such meetings in the camp."

Stirring addresses were delivered by Revs. Gervase Smith, G. S. Rowe,

Dr. Jobson and others. Dr. Punshon presided. Dr. Jobson, in speaking respecting a Home Missionary in Lincolnshire, described his mode of entering a village by singing, which always drew a crowd to the barn, or chapel, or wherever he was to preach. His mission had been so successful that scores and hundreds had groaned for redemption. Dr. J. had urged the Missionary to take rest after Thursday in each week until the Sabbath, but the earnest man said, "Sir, it is impossible ; the meetings and service increase in interest as the week advances, and Friday evenings are generally my best evenings. This is my time of harvest ; I cannot stop, I must go on." In one region of villages and hamlets, within a week eighty persons had been converted to God.

#### METROPOLITAN CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Rev. Gervase Smith, M.A., is Secretary. The object of the Committee is to erect new churches in London. It was formed in 1861, since which time 44 churches, with 41,000 sittings, have been erected ; 100 additional churches are still needed. The Committee wants to build five churches per year. Mark Firth, Esq., a wealthy member of the Methodist New Connexion, presided. He expressed a hope that the work of Methodist Union would advance with rapidity. Our readers will be interested to know that Mr. Firth is Mayor of Sheffield. He is a staunch Nonconformist, and takes an active part in public matters. He erected almshouses at Ranmoor, near Sheffield, at an expense of \$130,000 ; presented the town with a public park worth \$150,000, and has promised \$75,000 for the erection of suitable buildings in that town in connection with the Cambridge University Extension Scheme. The Prince and Princess of Wales have accepted an invitation to visit Sheffield at the opening of the park, and their Royal Highnesses will be the guests of the Mayor. Revs. J. Walton, Frederick