

very poor of both sexes. Besides all this, theatres and halls are open, and thither workingmen will, and do go, while they shrink from churches and chapels. A remarkable report has just been published by the United Committees of the movement begun seven years ago for preaching to the masses in theatres, &c. Here is a portion of it :

"It appears that last year there attended the Surrey Theatre from 2000 to 3000 persons ; Pavilion Theatre, 1500 to 2000 ; Standard Theatre, 1500 to 1800 ; Sadler's Wells Theatre, 1300 to 1500 ; Alhambra Palace, 1400 to 2000 ; Regent Music Hall, 400 to 800, and that 122 services had been held. Thus 190,000 persons, who, speaking generally, go to no place of worship, were brought under the sound of the gospel, making, with those who previously attended since the theatres were first opened on the Sunday evening, no fewer 1,370,000 individuals to whom more than 200 clergymen and Dissenting ministers have delivered free and popular discourses during the past seven years. 'Two-thirds of the men present at each service,' says the committee, 'were men whom nothing but a prize fight can interest, a tap-room and low pleasures attract, and who, apparently, are not excited above the mere animal in any thing ; yet were here quietly and patiently waiting the beginning of the service, and attentively listening to the end with interest and intelligence to the simple preaching of Jesus Christ and him crucified.' 'In no place about these parts, and by no person, however popular, has such a large number of working men been drawn together ;' and when it is remembered that the attraction was not that of symbolism, but that of the plain, simple address of the clergyman or minister, without gown or bands, book or manuscript, beyond the Bible, the conclusion is forced upon us that there must be some special influence in the very character of the services, which thus drew multitudes together, which does not belong to other religious bodies, who confine themselves to what is unusually called 'the outward and ordinary means of grace.' No doubt the theatre itself is an attraction, especially as many, if not all, the Sunday hearers are to be found in the pit and gallery during the week ; and the acoustic properties of the place have also something to do with the success of members ; but still we cannot but think that there is something due also to the freshness and freedom with which the gospel is preached, and the stimulating effect of sympathy with such large and attentive masses as listen so attentively and behave with such decorum.

"All this gives cause for thankfulness for the past, and for hope and cheer as regards the future."

PRESBYTERIAN UNION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *American Presbyterian* (N. S.), says of the recent meeting of the Re-union Committees of the two Assemblies :—"The meeting of these Committees, first apart, and then jointly, was held in New York city last week as announced. Our own and the joint Committee's meeting was held in the study of Madison Square Church. Ten members of each Committee were in attendance. Rev. George F. Wiswell, D.D., was elected a member of our Committee in place of Dr. Brainerd. The details of the business transacted are not, we suppose designed for publication at present, but no harm can possibly result from the announcement, that, during the two days through the greater part of which the joint meeting extended, no jarring word was uttered, although every member gave free utterance to his opinions, and that the impression made by the conferences was favourable to the result contemplated in the formation of the committees." The