

throughout the whole of them that there is nothing like that wide-spread and extended revival which our ministers are longing for, and hope yet to be privileged to see.

Among the causes of the low state of religion the Reports mention the following—over-engagement in worldly business—light amusement—satisfaction with the mere externals of religion—drinking usages—luxury of admission to sealing ordinances on the part of our own Church, and other denominations.

Many means are suggested in the various Reports, such as—1st, A more direct preaching of Christ, and earnest endeavors to reach the hearts and consciences of the hearers.

2nd. More faithful dealing with heads of families by Ministers and Kirk Sessions, regarding family worship.

3rd. A closer and more direct supervision of Sabbath Schools by Presbyteries.

4th. Frequent ministerial conferences for prayer and counsel among the members of the Church Courts.

The Report of your Committee is of a very varied character, and while it presents much that is hopeful in the state of religion throughout our Church, and a few tokens of the Lord's presence in our midst, at the same time it exhibits much to call for humiliation on the part of office-bearers and people, and the necessity of earnest persevering efforts after a revival of religion.

In conclusion your Committee would humbly submit the following recommendations to this Synod for adoption.

1st. That the monthly tracts be continued, and that every effort be made to adapt them to the state and wants of our people.

2nd. That Presbyteries be directed to follow out, as far as practicable, the repeated recommendations of the Synod regarding the Presbyterial visitation of the different congregations within their bounds, and that Kirk Sessions be enjoined to exercise faithful discipline towards applicants for admission to sealing ordinances.

3rd. That while united fervent prayer for a revival of religion is employed, and concerts among the brethren, for that purpose, formed and encouraged, your Committee recommend the continuous preaching of the Word on week-days by two or more of the brethren, as a means for stirring up the careless within and without the Church, and that the same decency and order be observed which commonly distinguish our Sabbath services.

4th. That the state of religion occupy a higher place in the attention of the Church Courts; and that the Reports of the Corresponding members in the various Presbyteries be transmitted to the Convener before the meeting of Synod, in order that the Report and conference on the state of religion may be taken up by the Synod at one of its earlier sessions.

JOHN CROMBIE, Convener, P. T.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Committee to whom the Synod entrusted the oversight of its Foreign Mission for the past year, desire with all humility to congratulate the Minister and Elders in synod assembled, on the privilege conferred on our church by her great Head, of being permitted to cooperate with other Churches and Christian Societies, in employing means for the evangelization of heathen lands. The promise of our covenant,—God to his Son, our Redeemer, contemplates the uttermost parts of the earth, becoming the possession of Him who "came and preached peace to them who were far off, and to them that were nigh." The subjects of Christ's Kingdom contemplate the issue

with joyful feelings, and cordially labour for its accomplishment.

Immediately after the last meeting of Synod, your Committee took the necessary steps to give effect to the invitations, which the Synod agreed to give to the Rev. Messrs. Stevenson and Laing, to proceed to India as Missionaries from this Church. The Committee regret that the services of one of these Brethren have not become available for the object contemplated,—the Presbytery of Toronto having declined to loose Mr. Laing from the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Scarborough for the reasons stated in the following deliverance of that Presbytery:—"That, considering, as appears from the statements made by the representatives of the Congregation of Scarborough, that the Lord has been, especially for the last few months, honoring the labors of Mr. Laing in a very marked manner in his present sphere of labour; considering also the very strong opposition made by them to his removal from them; and considering further that though his sense of the importance of the Foreign Mission field is not altered, and he is quite willing to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Presbytery and enter cheerfully on the duties of the Foreign Mission, if set apart for that work, he feels the importance of those considerations which operate on the minds of the Presbytery; the Presbytery believing that the Synod did not intend to enjoin them to loose Mr. Laing without regarding any statement that he or his congregation might make before the Presbytery, as indicated in that the Synod merely call and invite Mr. Laing to enter on the Foreign Mission work, find that it is inexpedient in the circumstances to loose him from his present sphere." Your Committee were more successful in seeking to obtain Mr. Stevenson. The Presbytery of Stirling promptly agreed to further the Synod's object, and placed him at the disposal of his church. Your Committee desire to acknowledge with gratitude the deep interest which many of the friends in Scotland have taken in this Missionary scheme of our Church, and also the important services rendered to the Synod, by the Rev. Mr. Scott of London, when presenting the call to Mr. Stevenson before the Church court in Scotland.

On the first day of February 1857, your Missionary arrived at Calcutta, where he and his wife received a cordial welcome from Dr. Duff, and the other friends of the Free Church Mission at that station. After spending two weeks there in holding sweet counsel with those brethren and others of the Church, London, and Baptist Missions, he proceeded to Bancoorah, a place about 120 miles distant from Calcutta, and which had been suggested by Dr. Duff and other friends as a suitable field for the Mission of this Church, it being at the same time unoccupied by other Missionaries, and also so near to Calcutta, through the facilities of railroad travelling, that our dear brother, though really separated from Christian brethren, would be so conveniently situated that he could have their counsel when it might be needed. Other places had been spoken of, such as Dacca in Eastern India and Lucknow in Oude, but it was considered better in the first instance to commence operations in a place in some measure suited to the Missionary strength of our Church. Mr. Stevenson entered immediately on the study of the Bengali language. He also opened a school for giving instruction in Christianity through the medium of the English language among those natives who are engaged in learning that language. Your Committee desire to bless God that thus at least a *beginning* has been made by this Church in proclaiming God's authority among the heathen in such terms as the ancient prophet was instructed to employ, "I am the Lord; that is my name; and my glory

will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."

It is however with feelings of sorrow and humiliation, your Committee would state that according to the latest information from Bancoorah, our brother has, at the very commencement of his work, been exposed to trials which no doubt are intended by an infinitely wise and gracious God, to be trials of faith. Cholera has visited Bancoorah to such an extent that the Government school has been dismissed for a season, and the use of the school house in which Mr. Stevenson met with about 30 young men who are studying the English language for the purpose of teaching the doctrines of Christianity, has been withdrawn owing to the complaints made to the officials of Government by the guardians of the young men who came to his lecture. Do not these circumstances demand of us continued and earnest supplications at a throne of grace, that our brother may have "help in every time of need?"

Finally, as your Committee have been enabled to refrain from making any special appeal to the Church for the meeting of expenses attendant on the establishment of a Foreign Mission, ought not the Church to concentrate its efforts in sustaining in all possible efficiency the Mission at Bancoorah, and in enabling Mr. Stevenson to employ another native teacher, whenever it may be proper to do so?—Let the Church plead with Him who "has in his right hand the seven stars," that He would raise up his own instruments for doing this important work, and let each individual of our Church,—especially her ministers and licentiates, carry to the throne of God the self-denying inquiry, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

THOS. LOWRY, Joint Convener.

Kingston, June 10th, 1857.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COLPORTAGE AND PUBLICATION.

The Committee met immediately after the meeting of last Synod, and proceeded to take up the suggestions of the Report presented to last meeting, and approved by that Court.—After mature deliberation, it was agreed to proceed to the election of an agent. The only person whose name was proposed, was the Rev. W. Inglis, a minister without charge of the United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Inglis being known to several of the members of the Committee, they spoke favourably of him as a person likely to prove suitable for the office.—It was thereupon agreed that he be appointed to the office of agent at a salary of £200 per annum, with a free house in connection with the depository. A committee was appointed to select books, who reported at a subsequent sederunt, and the Convener was directed to order the books. An Executive Committee was also appointed for the purposes defined in the constitution.

Mr. Inglis accordingly entered upon the duties of his office—a house was hired as a depository—the books were ordered—and arrangements were made to prosecute the work vigorously.

But your committee regret to state that the history of our effort for the next three months is one of progress from bad to worse. Rumours reached the ears of the Executive Committee of dissatisfaction with the action of the Committee—and at length one Presbytery passed a resolution condemning the action of the Board. The Executive Committee met and agreed that it would be highly inexpedient to proceed in the face of this opposition; and it was agreed to defer all action on the applications for employment as Colporteurs, and that no further steps be taken till the next meeting of the Committee. When the Committee met, it was agreed to stay all proceedings till the mind of the