

church members be in pressing upon the attention of the young men, who have to frequent such places, the scriptural exhortations, "My son, if sinners entice thee consent thou not." "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright, for in the end it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

Your committee are gratified to notice that a number of temperance organizations are still labouring successfully throughout these Lower Provinces in promoting total abstinence, and that our ministers generally co-operate with them in this good work.— Yet much more might be done by our ministers in this way than is now done. And your committee would cordially recommend to all our ministers and elders to give as much countenance and assistance to these societies as they can consistently with their other duties.

Your committee are glad to notice that a good deal has been done of late both in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, to combine and concentrate the exertions of these organizations in the formation of temperance conventions, in which all the different temperance bodies are represented.— On P. E. Island in the winter, or rather spring of 1867, proposals were made by some of the zealous friends of temperance to hold such a convention as would unite and represent the different temperance organizations on the Island. These proposals met with the approval of the friends of temperance generally, and in compliance with a notice given a general convention assembled in Charlottetown in July of the same year, at which it was resolved that that convention, representing as it did the various temperance organizations on the Island, be itself constituted a standing organization. This convention assembled again last year in Summerside, and seemed to have secured good results in the public interest which it awakened on the subject of temperance. Arrangements were then made for securing the labors of a temperance lecturer, whose whole time should be employed in travelling and delivering temperance addresses, under the direction of a committee appointed by the convention for that purpose. One of your ministers was chosen as the secretary of that committee, and he has prosecuted the work with commendable zeal; and the lecturer, who is also a member of our church, has been engaged for nearly a year in this work. He has travelled twice over nearly every section of the Island, and delivered 175 addresses on temperance at public meetings, which he has held in all the places where temperance societies have been organized, or where there was any prospect of having them instituted.

Your committee have much satisfaction in directing the attention of the Synod to a similar, if not a still more advanced movement in Nova Scotia, in the work of concentrating the exertions of the friends of temperance in all the different temperance organizations in the Province. On the second day of March last, a convention met in the city of Halifax, representing temperance bodies in Nova Scotia, for consultation on important questions connected with the temperance work. It was then agreed to organize a permanent temperance association, to combine the action of the various temperance organizations at work in the province. Accordingly, a Provincial Temperance Alliance was formed as a permanent institution, and they adopted as their platform the principles of Prohibition. They have also resolved to bring their political influence to bear in a systematic way, to aim at securing a prohibitory liquor law. They also resolve to encourage temperance hotels, and to withdraw their patronage as much as possible from merchants and hotel keepers engaged in the liquor traffic. And there is every reason to hope that this alliance will secure the sympathy and encouragement of the sincere friends of temperance all through the Province, and that it will be the means of accomplishing much good for Nova Scotia. If the other Provinces were to organize similar associations and adopt the same platform and means of operation, a vast amount of good might be accomplished in suppressing the drinking customs that have been producing such deplorable evils throughout the bounds of this Synod.

Your committee have solicited suggestions from various ministers in this body. In reply some, and among these two of the most zealous and venerable fathers in the Synod, have suggested more restrictive legislative measures, or to get a prohibitory liquor law passed and enforced. Now, your committee would humbly recommend to the Synod to give its sanction and encouragement to any movement that would assist in securing such a law. Others suggest that the best way of dealing with this evil is to preach frequently and faithfully against it, to expose and condemn it by the light of the divine word, and encourage as much possible temperance organizations whose aim is to suppress intemperance and foster and promote the principles of total abstinence. And no doubt can be entertained that if all the ministers of this Synod, and all the office bearers in this church, and the members of our churches generally, were to engage heartily in this good work, intemperance would to a great extent be discountenanced and suppressed, and those within the influence of this church be saved from this terrible evil.