

cial attention of the Committee to what has come under my notice of the exceedingly demoralizing influence of *houses of ill-fame* on the youths of this city. I am sure that many parents are entirely ignorant of the sad facts of the case. I performed the disagreeable task of visiting every house in Barrack Street in the evening; and the result of my visits is to confirm the startling facts brought to light by the midnight visit of Mr Scott, the Alderman, to one of these dens of iniquity. I have found young lads assembling at these houses at dusk to take the first steps of a course which, no doubt, in most cases, ends in the destruction of the soul. An excellent school teacher in the neighbourhood tells me that the youngest children in his school are injuriously affected by these houses." "I have distributed in various parts of the city seven thousand Tracts, and seventy copies of the Bible." "In six months I visited *one thousand* families; and in many of these I read the Word of God and spoke of things pertaining to eternal life." I held a prayer-meeting at Gerish Street; and taught a Sabbath School, in connection with Mr Kenneth McKenzic, at Freshwater." "I met with most opposition, even to personal violence, at the Green Market. In my missionary visits I was often threatened with injury, sometimes cursed and turned out like a dog. I never was injured but once in Albermarle Street."

After telling of the caution he exercised in judging of conversions, Mr Gordon says, "The first-fruits of my labours were, neglected children attending Sabbath Schools, and careless parents going to places of public worship." I have to bless God for making me instrumental in the conversion of a coloured woman who lately died in the Poor Asylum. She brought forth fruits becoming her christian profession long before her death, and while suffering affliction. The most careless could mark the change in her. Her prayers to God on my behalf shortly before she died seem to be still ringing in my ears. I may next mention an aged man, ———, who acknowledged that he was brought to a right knowledge of God's method of saving sinners by your missionary. Another old man, ———, received me very coldly at first, but by subsequent visits he was awakened to deep concern for his soul." A young woman who was drawn away by the errors of Deatry, from the truth as it is in

Jesus, professed to receive benefit from my labours. I directed her, and lent her good books; and I have reason now to hope that she is in the right way."— Mr Gordon mentions five other cases of conversion; but space will not permit more extracts at present.

Mr Steel says that the irreligiousness of this community surpasses in proportion anything of the kind he had witnessed in English cities. During the months of September and October, 1855, he visited 167 families. Among these he found two hundred and two individuals who were "ignorant, idle, and vicious." He distributed among them 9 Bibles and Testaments, and 347 Tracts.— In his last Report Mr Steel says, "Many of the lower classes are steeped in irreligion and abandoned habits. Thousands are living in indifference as to past, present, and future *Tract distribution is a stubborn necessity in Halifax.*" "One other class I will refer to, and that is the poor, outcast, abandoned female. These poor immortal souls are daily growing less mindful of the past and reckless of the future." "Private drinking shops are an intolerable nuisance in this city. They are the handmaid to all other wickedness. To my knowledge, many an inexperienced youth, whom shame and fear deter from the public-house, finds in the private shops an opportunity to establish the odious and soul-destroying vice of drunkenness. Young girls too frequent these places."

Mr Morton in his Report dated 4th June says; "I have visited 125 families living in Barrack Street, Albermarle St. &c. I have conversed with most of these on spiritual and eternal things. I read the Scripture and offered up prayer with 70 families—distributed 100 tracts. I have read the Word of God and engaged in prayer on board several vessels. My labors there have been well received. I have been encouraged by deep attention and have frequently seen the falling tear."

In his Report for the month of July, Mr Morton says: "I have visited 156 families—and in most of these I have read the Word of God, offered up prayer, and conversed freely on personal religion. I have distributed 270 tracts." In August he says: "I repeat my visits frequently to those to whom I think they may be of service. The sick and the infirm have had my special attention. I have been much encouraged by what