

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE

Excessive Use of Intoxicating Liquors.

The Committee appointed by the Synod on the subject of "the sad and ruinous effects of the excessive use of intoxicating liquors; and to suggest some consistent efforts to stay the evil," beg to report:—

Previously, however, they would respectfully remind the Synod, that the subject is most important, and most unpopular—interfering, as it does, with the tastes and habits of some, the pecuniary interests of others, whilst many decline to entertain it—because *subversive* of customs and usages, sacred to memory; and coming down to them with associations *venerable* from age.

Notwithstanding, your Committee is persuaded of the Synod agreeing with them in this: That neither age, nor custom, nor taste, nor private interests are pleas sufficiently powerful to *stay investigation*, when suspicion is awakened that the thing in question is injurious to the *well-being* of man, considered in his relation to this world, and that which is to come.

Whether the *beverage* use of alcohol in *any* of its forms is *beneficial*, is more than suspected by hundreds of medical men, second to none in professional attainments; whilst jurists of large experience on the bench and at the bar, pronounce it to be *the prolific source* of that crime which swells the criminal docket, and feeds our jails, alms-houses, and penitentiaries; whilst in the eyes of the *philanthropist* it is seen as one of the chief agents in the prevailing ills of society; and the minister of religion writes it down in his daily journal as *a chief hindrance* in his way of making sons of men, sons of God.

To whatever causes it may be ascribed, no question is receiving—and that from all orders of society—more attention than this; and it would indeed be strange, if this venerable Church-court should fail to give it its most serious and prayerful consideration.