

out having the temptations of the public-house before them. From his own experience he could testify that total abstinence did no harm, and that when alcoholic liquors were to be taken on medical advice their restorative influence was very much greater than in the case of a man who had been taking them habitually. The working out of Local Option was the key to the solution of this question. The difficulty was in defining the word "local," but his own opinion was that it must be interpreted to mean locality. Nothing could be more invidious than the position of Justices of the Peace at present. They did not know what to do, but he found they were gravitating steadily towards Local Option and were taking the opinion of the people, so that when it was actually adopted by the Legislature no violent change would be experienced. If intemperance was to be met, and if it was proved that for most people who had yielded to the seductions of drink, total abstinence was the only remedy, it would be a great help to many to find that their minister had become a total abstainer, and was denying himself for the great cause they had at heart.

SCOTTISH MISSIONS.

COLONIAL.

THIS is the Jubilee year of that Mission the object of which is to provide for the spiritual wants of emigrants from Scotland to all parts of the Colonies. In 1836 the late Very Rev. Principal MacFarlane, the first Conventer, laid the Report on the table of the General Assembly. During the fifty years of its existence it has been the means of maintaining ordinances among those who, in distant lands, were unable to provide these for themselves. The Committee, on account of want of funds, have been compelled to refuse applications from many ministers and probationers of the Church—highly recommended, and of good ability and character—who were desirous of going to New South Wales, Victoria and Canada. The Committee still give small and gradually diminishing grants to Nanaimo, Victoria, and Comox in British Columbia—Langley is at present vacant—to the Colleges of Manitoba, Kingston, and Brisbane, in order that a provision be made for the training of what may be called a native ministry. The demand, however, for ministers from Scotland continues because the local churches are unable to meet the requirements of a growing population.

The work among Scottish colonists in Fiji and in the West Indies still continues; and in the latter some of the ministers are endeavouring to spread the Gospel among the Coolies. The reports from Meerut and Mhow in India are satisfactory. In 1885 the income was £4388.18s. 10d. There is no congregation of the Church which is not directly or indirectly interested in some of the settlers, between whom and their native land the oceans roll; and surely few will fail to respond, as "God hath prospered them," to the earnest appeal now made in their name and their behalf.

FOREIGN.

The Rev. David Clement Scott, of our East African Mission, has represented the Church at two recent conferences in London. The first was a conference on the Evangelisation of the World, which lasted for two days. Missionaries from China, from the East and West of Africa, from India and from Madagascar, spoke. There was much Missionary enthusiasm, and one rather striking feature of the proceedings was the delivery of addresses by ladies from the Mission field. They spoke earnestly and to the point, and with true gentleness of spirit. The other was a conference of delegates, held in the offices of the Church Missionary Society, to consider how best the liquor traffic in Africa can be restrained. The subject had been strongly impressed on the Church Missionary Society from the evil effects of the traffic in the valley of the Niger; but as the evil was a general one, and remedial measures applicable to one portion of the continent were equally of use to all, the Church Missionary Society had invited delegates from all the missionary bodies to consider the question. There will doubtless be a battle to fight over this subject, but the issues are sure, for the war is in the name of Him who is strong to save the new-born life of the world.

The East Central African Mission of the American Board for Foreign Missions has recently experienced wonderful blessing. Forty-eight persons have professed their decision to renounce all sin and all native customs that were doubtful, and many more are under serious impressions. Commenting upon the intelligence forwarded from the stations since this year began, the American *Missionary Herald* (Boston) says: "Ten years have usually been regarded as the period through which a missionary in Africa probably must labour after reaching a native tribe, before he may expect to see the first convert. The language has to be learned, the confidence of the people must be secured, and their habits