

II. CHARACTER OF FIELD.

1. *Spiritual Life.* In the majority of the congregations, the spiritual state seems rather doubtful. In some it is simply discouraging; in others greater hopes exist; while in a few there has been a special work of grace during the year. "It is with much regret," writes one, "that I have to express my opinion that spiritual life is low in our midst." "Some," adds another, "are growing in grace; others are becoming more worldly. I see signs of increasing interest in personal religion, but I have seen such signs before without much fruit resulting." While a third reports that "in two sections there seems to be some increase in earnestness and spirituality among professing Christians, and several others seem to have come to the Saviour." In Charlottetown, Truro, Georgetown and Springhill, there has been a special work of grace. The extent of that work is different in each case. In the first instance, as many as ninety-four have been added to the communion roll,—eighty-one of these for the first time, on a profession of faith, as part of the fruits of the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

As to the number of communicants, it seems that the membership of the Church, taken as a whole, is not what might reasonably be expected, scarcely averaging one communicant for each household. In some congregations, the average is very low. This is a serious matter, and one requiring careful consideration, inasmuch as in our churches this is the principal mode in which public profession is made of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; besides involving, in the case of Christians who do not accept of it, the putting away of an invaluable means of grace.

III. THE ORDINANCES.

1. With regard to the *Public Worship of God*, the committee rejoice to read the satisfactory returns. Among our congregations, particularly in country sections, the general attendance seems especially good. Among all this class of answers there is scarcely one complaint. In cities and the smaller towns it is not so good; one answer giving "much irregularity"; another stating what many sadly experience, viz., that "while in cities many strangers fill the churches, yet almost half of the regular families do not attend as regularly as they ought. Some systematically attend only once on the Lord's Day, and then only when the day is fine."

2. *Prayer Meetings.*—There is no congregation—so far as the replies extend—without its meeting for prayer, in addition to the regular services of the Sabbath. The nature of these varies according to circumstances. In some instances there is the general meeting alone. Others add thereto the district and the cottage meeting; whilst in those sections where the revival of religion has taken place, it has been the custom to hold meetings for prayer every evening during the week for months together, with the most beneficial results.

One return says:—"We have two prayer-meetings every week. One is held every Wednesday evening. Attendance very good, although many of the congregation do not attend at all. The other is held every Sabbath morning an hour before service, and is conducted by the members of the congregation for a blessing on the services of the day."

The general and grievous complaint, however, with all meetings, specially for prayer, is, that they are attended by a very small number indeed, as compared either with the Sabbath attendance, or even with the membership of the Church. Yet it is an acknowledged fact, that wherever there is a praying people, there God's blessings most liberally descend.

In one instance a fellowship meeting is found to be very beneficial.

3. *Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes.*—Every return gives also a Sabbath School. In some congregations where the people are widely scattered, it is found necessary to have several—in one instance numbering as many as ten. Many schools have Bible Classes under properly qualified teachers, as the complement of the junior classes. Sometimes the Bible class is under the minister's own superin-