

Clerks of Presbyteries did not transmit them, we cannot estimate the number of people who during the past year have voluntarily become members of the Church by profession of their faith in Christ, yet we believe that the accession to the membership of the Church in this way during the past year has exceeded that of any previous year. Many of those who have thus professed Christ are the baptized youth who have been religiously trained in their homes, in the Sabbath school, and Bible Class, and have resolved to consecrate their lives to the service of the Redeemer. We believe that not a few of them have been baptized and taught of the Holy Ghost. From such voluntary consecration may we not expect as well as pray that our Church will become "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

THE SABBATH SCHOOLS

are every year becoming more efficient. In some places it is difficult to obtain competent teachers. But in most of our congregations the Sabbath schools are in a very satisfactory state. Both teachers and pupils are interested in their work. The complaint is still general that parents do not encourage by their presence the teachers in their labour of love.

In some scattered congregations it is difficult to conduct Bible Classes with regularity. But on the whole these useful classes are well attended and every year becoming more interesting.

PRAYER MEETINGS.

In some places where a few years ago a prayer meeting could not be held without the presence of the minister, now, even in his absence "they that fear God" meet and speak often one to another." They hold large and interesting meetings for prayer and conference, and the spirit of energy and earnestness evinced is altogether unusual. Many earnest enquirers come to the pastors and elders and other experienced Christians, saying "Men and brethren what shall we do?"

As a result of this gracious movement, the people of God exercise more brotherly love and contribute more liberally for the support of religious ordinances. Partaking of the benevolence and self-sacrifice of the Holy Spirit they consecrate themselves and their talents to His cause. Warmed by the love of Christ and yearning for the salvation of the world they have come together, and are united in Christian unity and forbearance. The world seeing the difference between the present and the past say "Behold how the Christians how they love one another." The people are thus rising higher in the Christian life. Instead of rocking them-

selves and others in the cradle of indifference to spiritual sleep they have awakened, as if conscious that the day for working in God's vineyard has come, and they are asking "Lord what wilt thou have me to do." In some places the change is so apparent in the conversation and manner of the people that the sceptic beholds it with wonder, the profane are afraid to utter their blasphemy, drunkenness is greatly lessened, and families that were never known to call on God's name are now daily bowing in unison around the family altar, and asking their Heavenly Father "for mercy to save them and for grace to help them in time of need."

In most of those places thus visited by the Spirit of God the young men have organized prayer meetings of their own, where may be heard the voice of praise and prayer not only of young men, but of lads who have felt the stirrings of the Holy Ghost, and are anxious to commence the work of the Redeemer early in life.

Last year we saw little clouds rising out of the sea like a man's hand. In answer to the believing prayer of God's people these clouds have increased in number and magnitude, and extended in our ecclesiastical horizon. Let us continue our supplications with strong crying and tears, till our whole sky be overcast, and God in His mercy open the windows of Heaven and shower down the gracious influences of His Spirit till there be not room enough to receive it.

Fathers and Brethren, let us watch and pray, and work, while there is a temptation to resist, a throne of grace before which we can bow, and a part of God's field which needs cultivation. Thus we shall encourage our beloved Jesus to come "down into this garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens and to gather lilies."

The Committee have no recommendation to suggest except those suggested and agreed to last year.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES MACLEAN, *Convener.*

An appropriate resolution was adopted, and very impressive accounts were given of revivals in various sections of the Church.

Dalhousie College.

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the relations of the Church to Dalhousie College, and the desire was strongly expressed that the Government of Nova Scotia would assume the responsibility which properly belongs to it of supporting a thoroughly equipped College.

Sydney.

A Petition for the erection of a congregation in Sydney, C. B., was after discussion, granted