

STATE OF THE WORK.

Your Committee desires to express devout gratitude to the Father of mercies for grace and health vouchsafed to the labourers on their various fields of toil, and for renewed tokens of Divine goodness in the removal of physical disability and the bestowal of intellectual and spiritual vigor. The retrospect of the past year is full of encouragement. The spiritual songs and sermons of the intrepid missionary have been heard on mountain, prairie, and vale. The sick have been visited, the children catechized, the ignorant instructed, and all kinds and classes guided toward a true development of the religious life. The influences and labours of noble womanhood have exerted an ennobling tendency resulting in true spiritual culture, manifested by increased devotion to home life, stronger attachments to religious services, and greatly enlarged congregations.

The intelligent piety, love of discipline, and holy enthusiasm that has filled the minds and hearts of the toilers in the sphere of religious thought and life, has resulted in such an organization, extension and development of our work as to ensure present stability and hope of future success.

The passing of the North-West Sabbath law has been productive of good results.

Your Committee deplores the prevalent scepticism existing relative to the success of our Indian work. Impartial and thorough investigation reveals abundant proofs of the progress of our mission work among the Indians. The demoralizing influences of the immoral white man have been especially injurious. Many of the Indian tribes are in the transition state, and nothing but the quickening power of the gospel is able to elevate and save them. It is impossible in one or two generations to secure such development as will enable them to occupy the same social and intellectual position as their favoured white brethren, but we have been successful in leading them to become pious and devoted Indians.

The communistic system of farming, adopted by the Government amongst the Indians, has failed in promoting that independence which is a necessity in training a people.

The influence of missionary labour is seen in the fact that the Government has considered the Stoney Indians sufficiently advanced to withdraw their regular supplies, causing them to rely upon personal toil for subsistence. The McDougall Orphanage, though only partially equipped, is doing a noble work in caring for and educating Indian children. Small bands of Indians, destitute of religious instruction, are to be found adjoining some of our important missions. Lacking the time and talent necessary to engage in the work of imparting spiritual truths to these, we would earnestly urge that means be employed to secure voluntary lay agency in leading them to seek mental and social improvement and to trust in Christ as their Saviour and God. The depression of trade during the past year has had a tendency to throw over our work a gloomy aspect, but we hope that this will be overruled for good, in renewed consecration and increased devotion to God and man. The abuse of the permit system has induced a disregard for morality.

Your Committee would draw attention to the dangers connected with