

much credit and honour to himself, and had entered on the charge of one of the most important congregations, was taken away, to the great sorrow of an attached people. I refer to the Rev. Mr. Rennelson of Knox Church, Hamilton; and now in the same city we have been grieved by the intelligence yesterday of the death of another of our most rising and successful ministers, the Rev. John McColl, of Central Church, Hamilton. We have thus to deplore the loss to the Church of a not few brethren who were full of promise. Most of them have left widows and children. We commend these to the care and sympathy of the Covenant God, and whilst we bow to the sovereign disposal of the Most High, it is our earnest prayer that we may all of us be taught by the Spirit of God to redeem the time, to work for Jesus, and whatsoever our hand findeth to do, to do with all our might. And may the Lord himself so vouchsafe His gracious presence from day to day, in answer to prayer, guiding in perplexity, giving light in darkness, and opening up our way when the door seems to be shut, as that while others may be constrained to say, "The Lord hath done great things for men," we may all have reason to say, "The Lord, indeed, hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

On the motion of Mr. J. K. Smith, seconded by Mr. J. B. Muir, the thanks of the Assembly were conveyed to the retiring Moderator, Dr. Cook, for his admirable conduct in the chair during the past year, and for the able discourse preached by him that day.

Addresses of congratulation were then read from the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto of the Church of England, agreed to at its last Annual Session; from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland; and from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Australia.

THE EVENING SEDERUNT.

STATE OF RELIGION.

It had been announced that this sederunt would be devoted chiefly to religious exercises and the reading of the Report on the state of religion. At the appointed hour of meeting the body of the church was densely filled with members. There must have been at least 600 present. The galleries were also well filled by the general public, among whom were a large number of ladies. The devotional exercises were conducted by the

Moderator, Mr. John Scott, N. Bruce, Professor Mowat, of Kingston, and Mr. Sedgwick, of Tatamagouche, N.S.

The Report above referred to was read by Mr. Wardrope, of Guelph. It was an elaborate document, carefully prepared, and was listened to throughout with marked attention. It is to be hoped that it may find its way in print to every family of the Church and that the many excellent suggestions contained in it may by the blessing of God be the means of promoting the interests of true and undefiled religion and of extending the cause and Kingdom of the Redeemer in the remotest corners of our land. The report was founded upon returns from 356 Kirk-Sessions. It stated that a Sabbath School existed in connection with almost every congregation, and that hopeful signs of spiritual life were appearing in many localities. That intemperance was on the decrease. Under the head of evangelistic services, attention was called to the movements that had taken place in Quebec and Montreal, and very notably in Galt, as well as in other parts of the country. The report recommends that a day be appointed upon which the general subject of the state of religion in the land should be specially presented from the pulpit.

Mr. McTavish, in moving the adoption of the report took occasion to refer particularly to the importance of family worship, and urged that greater attention be given to the matter by ministers, in their pastoral dealings with their people. He congratulated the Assembly on the satisfactory nature of the returns which had been received, and on the evidence which they afforded that a wide-spread religious wave was passing over the Church.

Mr. J. K. Smith of Galt, expressed his thankfulness that such a report had been presented, and commented upon the reference made to Evangelistic work, in which as is well known, he himself has always taken a deep interest and an active part. The idea occurred to him as a good one, that if all his brethren in the ministry who occupied large city charges could only be released from their work for a month or two each year, and be sent out as Missionaries for that length of time to the solitary places—the new settlements that are springing up on every side—much might be done to advance the cause of Christ, and the ministers themselves would be greatly benefited.

If there was any thing to be regretted in connection with this report, it was only that