

more advanced among them, are not so familiar with it as they might be expected to be.

PRAYER MEETINGS

are to be found in connection, it is believed, with almost every congregation. They are not attended as they ought to be; but, from some quarters, the encouraging report comes that there is a largely increased attendance at such meetings. It is said that, in a few congregations, there is no prayer meeting. To your Committee this seems inexplicable. Such a state of things surely requires the immediate and very earnest attention of the Presbyters or Presbyteries to which such information has been forwarded.

CHRISTIAN LIBERALITY

appears to be on the increase throughout the Church. Congregations contribute more and more largely toward the maintenance of Gospel ordinances among themselves, and the support of the schemes of the Church; but in both of these departments, and very specially in the latter, there is much room and great need for improvement.

INDICATIONS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

of a very cheering character are to be seen here and there throughout our borders. One Presbytery reports that in some places "prayer meetings have been, and still are, exceedingly well attended. There never was anything like the interest now manifested, in former years." In another Presbytery one reports: "but for hopeful indications among the young, we might be tempted to give up altogether." A second: "Some of the young are known to be under the power of the truth, and there seems to be a growing seriousness among them." And a third: "We are glad to be able to report this year more indications of spiritual life than any previous year. In the first half of 1874 the seed of the Gospel was sown in tears, and no fruit appeared. But in August the Lord of the harvest was pleased to give us a rich and glorious in-gathering. Not less than 124 were received on the profession of their faith, at the communion in September.

It is most interesting to observe that, in all the Synods, and in almost all the Presbyteries, there have been conferences on the State of Religion. These seem to be becoming year by year, more interesting and more profitable.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

Your Committee have to tell of much earnest conference and, in many places, much earnest effort in connection with evangelical services. "It seems a sign of hope and of promise * * * that this somewhat new form of Christian activity which we call *special* or *evangelistic* services, should have commended itself so readily to the judgments and consciences of our people."* In several places within the bounds of the Synod of Toronto, such services have been followed by blessed results. Special mention may be made of Woodville in this connection. In the Report of the Synod of Toronto, the conviction is expressed "that the blessing granted so abundantly at Woodville, and vouchsafed in lesser measure elsewhere, invites and encourages all * * * to a heartier and more devoted service than the former years have seen."

* Report of Toronto Synod.