

which had been obtained by the League in regard to the working of the law. The testimony brought forward, embraced the evidence of about 67 Magistrates, 22 Superintendents of Police, 11 Governors of Prisons, 123 Clergymen, 73 City Missionaries, 538 Sabbath-school Teachers, 114 Manufacturers and Merchants, and upwards of 11,000 Working Men, &c. The following is a summary of this evidence:—

1. That, coincident with the operation of the Public House Act, there has been, as compared with the period immediately preceding, a sensible diminution in those crimes which are directly traceable to the use of strong drinks, as well as in the number of cases of parties taken to the police office in a state of helpless intoxication. 2. That diminution in crime and police cases of helpless intoxication has proceeded, in very regular proportion, according to the stringency with which the Act has been enforced.— 3. That this diminution in the number of police cases and prison commitments, however gratifying, is not the only or the main good traceable to the Act. On the contrary, that the classes quite removed from crime (so-called) have been, proportionally, much more benefitted than the lower criminal grades; since, with the former, evasion is at once difficult and disreputable, whilst, with the latter, it is not only comparatively easy, but it is also a point of honour to cheat the police. 4. That there is not the slightest ground for the assertion that, under the Act, and as a consequence of it, private drinking during the forbidden hours in unlicensed houses has been increased. That the relative proportions of public and private drinking have been very much changed does not admit of doubt;—but that the latter has been increased has not appeared. That it prevailed formerly to a lamentable extent, is proved by the startling figures of the Edinburgh and Leith Sabbath Statistics; and the evidence now before the Conference justifies the assertion that private drinking is now only more marked, because public sale, and therefore public drinking has been rendered during these hours illegal and difficult. 5. That so great and so clearly marked have been the good results of the operation of the Act, that the whole community (if we except a portion of the spirit trade, the opponents of the Sabbath, and a few other agitators) are prepared to express and do express their approval of it, and only lament that its provisions are not more stringent, or that there is no party held bound to see its impartial and thorough enforcement. A very satisfactory evidence of this is found in the fact that, amongst all the testimonies and statistics received, whatever may be the diversity of view as to the temperance question, or even the details of this Act, there is not one which can fairly be deemed unfavourable to it as a means of social improvement.

The following is the testimony borne by various individuals connected with the City of Glasgow:—

James Smart, Esq., Superintendent of Police, says, that "since the Act came into force, shutting the shops on Sunday, cases of drunkenness on our streets upon that day are very rare, and it is gratifying to state, that, although we have now few cases on Sunday, this has not been followed by an increase on the other days of the week. During the first seven months of the working of the Act, there was a decrease of drinking cases of upwards of 3000, and this decrease still continues; and crime has also decreased. But although the number of drunken cases had not decreased, the Act would have been of the highest importance for regulating the spirit trade of the city. Formerly, during the Fair week and New-Year week, every publican who chose, could keep open the whole week, from Monday morn-

ing to Saturday night. The result was, that our streets presented scenes of riot and disorder.—Our public Green, during the Fair week, was a disgrace to any city; and any person whose house was in the neighbourhood might think himself fortunate if he was not awakened two or three times every night with fighting, calls for 'police,' and of 'murder.' I am of opinion, also, that the keeping of public-houses shut to seven o'clock in the morning, and closing at eleven at night, has been of great advantage. Formerly a wedding, a raffle, supper, or dance, was made an excuse for keeping open all night, and disturbing the residents in a whole street."—Mr. Smart adds, concerning unlicensed dealers, "Before the passing of the present Act, these houses were numerous in Glasgow; but the previous Act was defective, and although many were convicted, yet they seldom or never paid the fines. Many of the parties brought up under the new Act have been carrying on business for years. In about two years there has been a diminution of the license certificates granted, to the number of nearly two hundred." The Rev. George Blitho writes—"that the Act in question has done good both in checking intemperance and Sabbath desecration, there can be no doubt; and, if it were repealed, my conviction is that society would be plunged into a worse state than it was prior to its enactment." So many as forty-five agents of City Missions state that they have "been eagerly alive to the working of the measure in our various districts, and we hesitate not to affirm that it has been eminently beneficial. We may say of our districts generally, that on Sabbath they are now as much characterized by order and quietude as they used to be by drunken revelry and strife. In the more public streets the improvement has been matter of universal remark. We are not aware that this measure has been attended, as some allege, by increase of drinking on Saturdays and Mondays. We have reason to believe that in some quarters there is less. Many of those who spent the Sabbath in a state of intoxication, or who were prevented from attending church from the disorderly state of their families, are now going out to public worship, and the attendance on our Sabbath evening meetings is increased." Rev. Duncan MacFarlane, D. D., Principal of Glasgow University, is "bound to say that, since the New Public-houses' Act came into operation, a great improvement has taken place in the appearance of the streets which I have occasion to see or pass along on the Lord's Day. The offensive and disgraceful exhibitions of drunkenness, which before that time were very common and most annoying, have become of rare occurrence, and, indeed, almost entirely disappeared." The Rev. David McRae, U. P. Mission Church, Gorbals, says, that "since the Public-houses' Act came into operation last year, by which places for the sale of spirits are shut at eleven o'clock at night, and during the whole of the Sabbath, there has been a marked change to the better in Main Street, Gorbals, which comes more immediately under my observation. I have observed, besides, when I have had occasion to visit various parts of the city, on official duty on the Sabbath evenings, that very few intoxicated persons are to be seen on the streets on such occasions—a very different state of things indeed from what existed formerly. So convinced am I of the beneficial effects of the Public-houses' Act, so far as it goes, that my sympathies are all in favour of an extension of it to all the days of the week."

In the face of such evidence, it is absurd to talk of the futility of any attempts to restrain or prohibit the sale of intoxicating drinks.

There was, lately, a large meeting in Toronto, of the friends of temperance throughout the community. The number and respectability of the delegates who were present, indicated that the

case has a strong hold on the intelligent and religious portion of the community. We earnestly trust that another vigorous and resolute effort will carry the day, and put an end to the legalized sale of intoxicating drink, and as a consequence, the legalized spread of intemperance throughout the community.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STUDENT'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF KNOX'S COLLEGE.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Divinity Hall, on Thursday evening, the 15th Nov., for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report, and electing Office-bearers for the ensuing year.

There was a full attendance of Students, and notwithstanding the distance from the city, and the unfinished state of the entrance to the new premises, a larger attendance of friends than could have been expected under these circumstances, was present on the occasion. The greater proportion of these were ladies, who have always manifested a deep interest in the proceedings of this Society.

The Rev. Dr. Willis occupied the Chair, and opened the meeting with the usual devotional exercises.

After congratulating the Society on the auspicious meeting assembled for the first time on such an occasion in the new buildings, the Rev. Dr. made a few remarks with reference to the benefits resulting from the cultivation of a missionary spirit in Students preparing for the work of the ministry, and the ultimate advantage also of their being employed in some measure, in active labor previous to their leaving the College training.

He then called upon the Secretary, Mr. Cuthbertson, to read the Annual Report, which is given in full in another part of the *Record*.

The Rev. Dr. Burns, who is deeply interested in the present change of the Society's Mission field, corroborated Dr. Willis' statements in a very interesting speech, shewing the benefit likely to arise from the employment of a missionary either from Geneva or the Waldensian Church—moved the adoption of the report, and its publication either separately, or in the *Record*.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Geikie, who among other interesting remarks, referred to the danger of neglecting home desecration in our zeal for foreign mission work.

The Treasurer, Mr. Ross, then read a report of the financial state of the Society, shewing the funds to be larger than on any former year.

Mr. Millican, on behalf of the Tract Committee, reported the labor performed by the Students during the past winter in the city: also their employment during the summer, whether as Catechists, or as Colporteurs.

The Rev. Mr. Reid, after a few appropriate remarks, moved the adoption of the report, which was duly seconded.

Dr. Willis then, after giving a short sketch of his tour to the Continent of Europe, during the summer months, announced to the Students that he had procured from friends, upwards of 500