

earnest and consecrated souls in all our congregations, who never lose an opportunity of doing good to the careless, by turning their attention to spiritual and eternal things. But probably nine tenths of the members of the church never open their mouths in private and social intercourse in the interests of perishing souls, and on behalf of Him who died for them, and whom they profess to love and serve. What a grand missionary work lies to the hand of every christian, in this line of personal endeavour, among unconverted friends and chance acquaintances.

#### BRINGING THE YOUNG TO DECISION.

The reports do not have much to say concerning the means used to bring the young to decision for Christ. The spiritual interests of our young people receive a great deal of attention in the home, the Sabbath school and the church, at the hands of parents, Sabbath school teachers, pastors and elders. But still it does not appear that there is much effort made to bring them to a deliberate choice of Christ as their Saviour and Lord. There is much general instruction, given to this interesting portion of our population, but we believe there is not as much close dealing with the conscience as there should be in order to bring the young to a sense of sin, faith in Christ, and consecration to His service. It is a grand mistake to let the tender and impressible season of childhood go by without this close personal dealing.

#### SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.

There are societies for the special benefit of the young in a large number of our congregations. Recently, "The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour," has been introduced, and it is doing good work. This society seems to meet a long felt want in the church, and is worthy of special mention in this report.

Its object is as stated in the constitution "to promote an earnest christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to be more useful in the service of God." It seeks to bring the young to Christ, and so to cultivate their gifts and graces so that they shall be active and useful members of the church.

This institution is only a few years old, and yet its societies are already numbered by thousands. It has found its way into every christian country and unto some mission fields as well. It commends itself

at once, to every one who is in search of an agency that is fitted, by God's blessing to bring the young people into the church, keep them in the church and make them useful to the church.

#### HINDRANCES TO RELIGION.

In answer to the last question, viz., that respecting hindrances, numerous answers are given, for example, intemperance, lack of home training and parental control, dancing, horse racing, pernicious literature, current scepticism, dependence upon morality of life, animosities and bickerings among church members and communities etc.

Most if not all the reports mention worldliness as one of the greatest hindrances, which the church has to encounter in doing the work of the Lord in these Provinces, and it appears to your committee that this hindrance requires special emphasis. Unlike dancing, horse-racing, intemperance &c., worldliness creeps stealthily into the hearts and lives of ministers and elders, as well as of members and adherents, and wherever it goes it causes spiritual paralysis. In this way it not only constitutes a hindrance, but it also weakens the power necessary to overcome that hindrance.

#### THE MERCIES OF THE YEAR.

In conclusion let us as a Synod thank God most fervently for the abundant evidences of His presence and blessings vouchsafed unto us as a church throughout the past year. He has not permitted us to labour in vain nor spend our strength for naught." He has lengthened the cords, and strengthened the stakes of our Zion, and doubtless, had we been more faithful, earnest and consecrated, He would have blessed us still more richly and manifestly.

We beg to make the following recommendations:—

1. That the synod renew the injunction of last year, enjoining upon all sessions and presbyteries to report on the state of religion,

2. That sessions be urged to hold a yearly conference, each elder reporting for his own congregational district.

3. That parents give special attention to the matter of family worship, the memorizing of the scriptures and shorter catechism, and that they be strongly urged to attend to parental training.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN MURRAY, Convenor