

the young, but to adults. In some places a children's service, or hour of worship on Sabbath forenoon, has been held. The Synods of Aberdeen and Moray make special mention of them. The "children's Church" at Elgin is attended by nearly 400 children, and the services are conducted by 40 members of the congregation.

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES.

The following are noticed: Deputations, lay agency, and continuous prayer meetings. Where these had been tried, the results were remarkably similar to what have been found within the limits of our own church in these Provinces.

From *Deputations* from the General Assembly excellent results flowed, but such deputies can not accomplish one tithe of the work, nor in any good measure meet the necessities of the case. In the Lower Provinces the visits of Deputations have been refreshing, and stimulating to ministers and people. A few years ago the Presbytery of P. E. Island resolved itself into three committees and visited the whole Island with excellent effect. Still such measures can only be occasional.

In respect to *Lay Agency*, our brethren in the old world are in the same position as ourselves. Only in a single instance was a formal license or authorization given to a lay evangelist to itinerate, but their zeal and co-operation are welcomed and largely utilized, not however, we think, more largely in proportion to their numbers, than with ourselves. We are happy to say that many of our ministers are now receiving immense aid from the willing labours, not merely of elders (for these are not laymen), but of zealous volunteers, who seek no office or fee, but feel constrained by love to Jesus to work for the Kingdom and for souls. Would that all the Lord's people did prophesy!

CONTINUOUS MEETINGS

In Scotland, as in these Provinces, when judiciously and earnestly tried by faithful men, have produced good fruits. They prove profitable to those who attend them, and some of the careless will be drawn in and impressed. The following general di-

rections are given as the result of experience:—"Never try such meetings for less than a fortnight at a time;—to close them at the end of a week is to break off the work just when there is the best hope of reaping some fruit from it. Let the meetings be run on Sabbath evening with an address explaining what is intended. Let one or two evangelists and one or two ministers be engaged to take part. Let the addresses be short, the prayers fervent, and large opportunity of singing afforded (for singing is God's appointed means of stirring up the affections); and let all anxious souls be invited for conversation after the meeting is over, and the result under God's blessing will generally be that the attendance will increase at each successive meeting; and that by the beginning of the second week that reluctance, to speak of the concerns of the soul, which is generally such a hindrance to close, and affectionate dealing will, in a great measure, be overcome. Might not such a succession of meetings be with great profit connected with our communion occasions?"

We lay these facts and suggestions before the church to stimulate thought and inquiry. Presbyterial Conferences may do much toward awakening in all ministers and elders in attendance a readiness for hearty co-operation in reviving the Lord's work in their respective congregations; but more especially does it devolve on each Session to consider earnestly whether its members, individually and collectively, are doing all that is practicable to develop the spiritual life of the congregation. Brethren let us watch for souls as they that must give an account. There are earnest men around us in the membership, and we hinder them if we do not lead them forward.

PROGRESS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Among the most hopeful signs of the times is the advancement of religious liberty which we witness throughout the world. God is manifestly opening up the path so that there shall be no outward barrier in the way of those who profess the