

shall no such cross be given. Our philosophers call for a philosophic Gospel; but there shall no such Gospel be sent down from heaven. Our advanced thinkers and men of expansion demand a Christ for the nineteenth century; but no such Christ has arisen or shall arise. It must either be the first-century cross, the first-century Gospel, the first-century Christ, or no cross, no Gospel, no Christ at all. A cultured world now calls aloud for a cultured Christ, and refuses its allegiance to any other: but there shall no other Christ be given but the Son of the carpenter.

DR. EDMOND, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, in his opening address reviewed some of the ecclesiastical events which had occurred during his ministry of forty years, such as the Kilsyth revival, the Disruption in 1843; the formation of the United Presbyterian Church in 1847, and the happy union of Presbyterians in England and elsewhere. In closing he said there were two things to render that meeting memorable,—(1) the completion of a new code of Church praise, and (2), the appointment of a committee as regards the Confession of Faith. That may prove the beginning of a movement destined to have a long sequel. The burden of DR. HARRICK JOHNSON'S address to the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States was "a dearth of ministers" and an anxious enquiry into the cause of it. MR. WILSON congratulated the Presbyterian Church in Ireland that their controversy on the instrumental music question had ceased. DR. KING, in our own Assembly gave expression to the importance of providing for the adequate remuneration of the ministry.

Report on the State of Religion, 1883.

REPORTS have been sent in to your Committee, for the most part full, carefully prepared and of great value, from the five Synods which constitute the Church. These in turn were based upon Presbyterial Digests of Sessional returns, and numbered 545 out of 833 charges.

These results, though a considerable advance in some quarters upon past attainments, indicate a large amount of continued neglect and indifference in regard to matters of the greatest importance and interest to the individual congregation and to the Church at large. The faithful preparation of these returns secures an attention to the religious condition of the congregation and community not likely to be otherwise given to it, and no pains should be omitted to obtain this in all parts of the Church. It is with much regret we notice

that these shortcomings are not confined to newer and imperfectly organized charges, but prevail too in some long and highly cultured regions, which claim a leading place in other departments of church enterprise. For example, why should we be told that no returns have been made by any of the five Sessions of a city in the Maritime Provinces, or by fourteen out of the twenty one charges in one of the Presbyteries in the centre of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, when neighboring Presbyteries present a report for every charge within their bounds. It is, however, matter for high gratification, that this year reports, more or less full, have been sent in by all the Presbyteries, with the exception of the small and distant one of Newfoundland. We may be allowed still to remind this Presbytery, that though least and farthest among the sister band, it has not lost its place in the affectionate solicitude of the Church, and we shall hope to hear from it in the future as in the past.

CONFERENCES.—In all parts of the Church in connection with the preparation and consideration of these reports there has been an amount of prayerful conference, which cannot but produce results of high value to those who participated in it, and to the congregations under their care. It is worthy of mention that at the recent meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston a conference, upon subjects suggested by these reports, occupying an entire day, was the occasion of much interesting and profitable interchange of thought and prayer—an example to which we take the liberty of directing the attention of other Synods and Presbyteries.

CHURCH ORDINANCES.—Here the almost unbroken testimony is of an encouraging and satisfactory nature. Our people revere the Sanctuary of a covenant God, and show a high appreciation of the value of a gospel ministry and the blessings found in the courts of God's house. It is a pity that this should need to be qualified in any measure, but it must be so where we find reference made in more than one quarter to the growing prevalence of "half-day hearing" in cities and towns with, as one remarks, "its depressing influence on the minister, on the portion of the congregation present, and on visiting strangers." These absentees little know how much they, like Thomas of old, may lose by not assembling with their brethren, or how far they may yet be held responsible for a lack of moral support and loss of spiritual power in the minister and of prosperity in the congregation over which they placed him, and for whose welfare they hold him accountable.

In the observance of the Sacraments there are still dilatory parents in the membership of the Church, slow in claiming in Baptism the blessings of the Covenant for their offspring;