

ing amid much deadness and indifference to follow the Lord fully ; but I fear that the Christianity of the majority is merely nominal and therefore barren. Still we wait on and pray that there may be even in this dark corner a revival of religion such as many corners of the vineyard are now being blessed and refreshed with.'

"On the other hand the Committee have great joy in bringing to the notice of the Synod the fact that the Head of the Church has vouchsafed to some of our congregations, along with those of other denominations in the Eastern part of Nova Scotia, a most abundant outpouring of His Spirit, producing a genuine, wide spread and deeply reaching revival of religion, the fruits already reaped from which are exceedingly precious. Accounts of this have been published in the April and May numbers of the RECORD, and to these the Committee respectfully refer for more particular information.

### III. ORDINANCES.

"The accounts received are generally encouraging. Pleasing tidings are given of cottage and other prayer meetings and Bible classes.

"On the subject of Baptism the only quotation the Committee feel disposed to make this year is from the brother already quoted from, and is as follows : 'I grieve to find much ignorance and superstition prevailing amongst our people, caused in a great measure, I believe, by contact with Roman Catholics. The prevailing belief is that the sprinkling of water by the minister is absolutely necessary to the salvation of the infant, and so there is an unseemly anxiety even on the part of non-church goers and openly licentious persons to have the rite performed. I would suggest that the ministers of the whole Church take a decided stand in this matter and resolve to baptize none but the children of those who are in full communion, and that baptism be administered in the Church, except when sickness or distance may make it inconvenient.'

### "V. RELIGIOUS WORK.

"One return is particularly pleasing. 'Some of the Elders visit the sick. All teach in the Sabbath School with the exception of the two oldest. Every one does some special work, such as acting as session Clerk, Treasurer for one or more Congregational, Presbytery or Synodical schemes ; most assist in the prayer and Sabbath School meetings, and considering they have their business and families to attend to, they do a fair share of Church work. A considerable proportion of the congregation realize that they are individually members of the body of Christ, bound to serve the living God. Some visit and read and pray with the sick, help the poor, collect for the schemes of the Congregation and the Church, preach in different Sabbath Schools, visit the hospital, poor house and prison, deny themselves that they may give for Christ ; but a still larger number do little or nothing, at least compared with their time, opportunities and means. Some of the people give up to and beyond their ability.' Others do not give for the Lord's cause and the poor anything like even a tenth."

### "VI. HINDRANCES.

"With regard to trashy and corrupt literature the Committee commend the following to the Church : 'It must be sought by an earnest attempt to provide a substitute in the shape of wholesome reading. The Religious Book and Tract Society should be encouraged.

"Among special sins are mentioned worldliness, frivolity, intemperance, disobedience to parents, and slander, connected with the gossip at the tea table, and caused by Christians being unable or unwilling to converse on religious subjects when they meet ; and many other sins that are grievous in the Lord's sight, but which do not cause His servants that sorrow of heart that they would if there were more insight and more love to souls.

"One part of the Committee's duty was to send deputations to such Congregations as desired them. One member of Committee has visited several congregations and his labours were so blessed as to indicate that much good may be expected to be accomplished by this method.

"From the inadequacy of the returns, together with the illness of the Convener, the Committee refrain from extending their report, only expressing the hope that if, in the wisdom of the Synod, the Committee be reappointed, ministers will be enjoined to return answers to the queries sent by the Committee, so that a really full and complete report may be prepared and presented.

"All which is respectfully submitted.

"THOS. DUNCAN, *Convener.*"