

these meetings in the various localities of the Presbytery, it would not be easy to speak definitely, so far as we may be warranted in forming any judgment. I believe that the result generally was rather a quickening of the people of God, than an ingathering from the world." He then proceeds to make special mention of one Congregation where the interest was very marked. The Church, he says, was for some successive weeks literally crowded, nightly—the passages being often occupied by people standing for want of sitting room; and on many days the manse was crowded with inquirers. There seemed to be really an outpouring of the spirit. At a communion season connected with the Congregation, when the writer himself was present, there were fourteen young persons received on a profession of their faith to the fellowship of the Church; and many others were awakened and anxious who did not then venture forward to the Communion. Many also who had previously joined themselves to the Lord through the covenant of grace, were much revived and refreshed. And while we are favoured with these special instances of the divine power attending the means of grace, most of the reports mention more general evidences, such as increased earnestness, arising from a growing realisation of the importance of spiritual and eternal things—both in ministers and people—an extension in the number of prayer meetings, free private intercourse on the great subjects of the soul's everlasting salvation, increased attention on the part of office-bearers to the visitation of the people, and a more general attendance to the important duties connected with family religion.

But while the reports of Presbyteries thus furnish much ground for encouragement and thanksgiving, they also show much occasion for humiliation and increased fervency in prayer to God for the revival of his work. Much worldliness and immorality in various forms abound in the country, and much indifference and apathy among the professed followers of the Saviour. The present world seems to bulk much more largely in the mind than the unseen kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. And while we have been blessed with some spiritual fruit, we have not had the honour and happiness of gathering a plenteous harvest; and as we do not live in ordinary times, we should not be satisfied with ordinary results. The circumstance of the spiritual showers having fallen so plentifully, and refreshed the Church so largely in other parts, and specially in Ireland and Scotland, lands with which we have such close and intimate intercourse, while we have been left comparatively unvisited, should excite our fears and awaken our enquiries respecting the reasons of this. The gracious influence has been sent to other districts by the instrumentality of those who have witnessed and felt its manifestations; but though there have been parties going to and fro between our country and the localities so blessed, no messenger has yet been sent with the benefit to us. In the early history of the United States, the Church there was blessed with revivals of religion, and the Church of God, in the countries of Britain has often, since the period of the Reformation, had times of refreshing, but an extensive revival of the grace of God is something, which as yet,

has no place in the history of Canada. There is therefore in the report good reason why our thanksgivings should be mingled with lamentations at our barren condition, and fervent petitions for the advancement of the Lord's work of grace.

The Committee close their report with the following recommendations.—

1. That the annual conferences in the several Presbyteries in the State of Religion, be continued.

2. That a Pastoral Letter, similar to that of last year, be prepared and read from the pulpits of the Congregations belonging to the Synod.

3. That a Sabbath be appointed for ministers discoursing to their people on the special subject of the State of Religion in the Church, and for the offering up of special prayer in reference to it.

J. SCOTT, Convener.

REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your Committee presented their Report at the meeting of last Synod, but owing to the pressure of business it was received, and was not read. There was thus, practically, no Report last year.

Your Committee endeavoured to keep up an interest in the young by continuing to issue questions in the Record, and publishing an occasional article for the young when the Editor could spare room for it. During the year also, the Convener issued a series of questions in connection with Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes; to these answers have been received from 96 congregations. From Presbytery of Hamilton 21; of London, 22, of Montreal, 14; of Toronto, 9; of Cobourg, 9; of Brockville, 8; of Kingston 6; and of Ottawa, 4.

These returns, although not so complete as is desirable, afford ample proof of the deep interest taken by our office-bearers in the godly training of the young. They give a total of 181 schools, having on their respective rolls 7568 scholars, with an average attendance of 5774, instructed by a noble band of 957 Teachers, and having attached to them 17821 volumes of all sorts of religious works. The Bible Classes reported number 128, attended by 2300, chiefly taught by ministers, though in several cases godly Elders and Communicants zealously aid them in the work. By adding one-fourth to the numbers already given an approximation to the exact numbers to the exact numbers will be obtained, and will run thus:

Schools, 225, Pupils on Roll, 9160, Average attendance, 6967, Number of Teachers, 1196, Volumes in Sabbath Schools, 22276, Bible Classes, 160, do. attendance, 2875.

The number of Schools and Classes, reported as contributing for Missionary purposes, is small, amounting only to 30. To this fact your Committee would call the earnest attention of the office-bearers, and would suggest the setting up of a Missionary Box in every school. Unless the young be trained in early life to give to Christ's cause, it is hopeless to expect of their liberality when they attain riper years.

It is pleasing to notice that that most admirable of all systems of divinity, the Shorter Catechism, is taught in all the schools, side by side with the Word of God, and in harmonious subordination to it.

There is considerable variety in regard to

the systems of lessons employed, some using none at all, others forming one for themselves, and a considerable number adopting either the system published by the Rev. W. Greig, under the sanction of Synod, or that of the Edinburgh Sabbath School Union. Several Ministers suggest the publication of another system for our church. Your Committee made some progress in the preparation of a course last year, but deferred proceeding further without the full consent or the sanction of Synod, and they meanwhile recommend as most suitable, the system of the Edinburgh Sabbath School Union which can be procured in this City.

Your Committee are rejoiced to find that in harmony with their own views, the majority of Ministers are either opposed to the establishment of a Children's Paper of our own, or approve of it conditionally. In a young Church like ours they consider it more expedient to depend on the wisdom and avail ourselves of the periodicals and systems of lessons prepared by abler, and longer established churches, or associations, than to get involved in independent and hazardous undertakings of our own.

The periodicals chiefly read by our young are Nelson's Children's Paper, the Presbyterian Sabbath School Visitor, and the Child's Paper. Of these your Committee most strongly recommend the Visitor, as best adapted to the Presbyterian youth of this Province, and most fit to diffuse sound Presbyterian doctrine.

Your Committees have also corresponded with the Convener of the Colonial Committees of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and Free Church of Ireland, with the view of getting introduced into this land, the excellent Children's Papers published by these denominations.

For the information of parties at which all except one of these may be procured, including postage, is here with subjoined.

Presbyterian S. S. Visitor, 25 copies	
with postage, per annum,	\$3 00
Nelson's Children's Paper, do do 6 25	
Children's Missionary Herald of Presbyterian Church of Ireland, 24 copies,	4 50
Missionary Record of Free Church of Scotland, 24 copies about	3 24

Your Committee have had under consideration the propriety of preparing a collection of hymns for various sabbaths, the general experience of Teachers having shown that something more simple than our excellent Psalms and Paraphrases is needed for our young. They meanwhile commend to congregations the collections of Songs of Praise for Sabbath Schools selected by the Montreal Sabbath School Association of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, or the somewhat larger one entitled Hymns for young Children, published by the Old School Presbyterian Board of Publication. They also bring under the special notice of the Court a Catechism for the young, recently published by the same Board. It is based on the Shorter Catechism, and forms, in their judgment, the best introduction to it that has ever yet appeared.

Your Committee conclude their Report with the following suggestions.

1. That Presbyteries be enjoined to take a special oversight of the lambs of the flock, and that for the purpose each Presbytery shall have a corresponding member of