

operation. The preaching of the Word, the Sabbath School, the Bible Class, the Prayer Meeting, visitation from house to house, and in some cases Cottage meetings, all these are reported as being in operation. It is not reported, but we know in other ways, that religious literature is being disseminated. The cottage meetings appear in some cases to be of recent origin, but where introduced they are spoken of in the highest terms. It is satisfactory to hear of congregations being covered over with a net-work of them, assembling as they do weekly or fortnightly as the case may be, with a leader or leaders who are responsible for the conducting of them. When there are more than one leader, the fire and energy of youth accompany the staidness and gravity of old age, the young man works side by side with the ruling elder or other aged disciple. The devotional is supplemented by the catechetical, hence the interest is kept up and knowledge is increased. In some cases monthly reports of the meetings held and of the attendance given at each are made. As the result of the work that has been done there is so far as human eye can see fruit which is ripening as time passes. One report says, "There have been and are in many of our congregations many anxious inquiries and not a few conversions, there having been added to the church last year by profession about one hundred and seventy. Many of the young especially seem to be deeply impressed and are diligently seeking after the one thing needful." Where activity is stimulated or called forth where it was not before, there must be a blessed experience on the part of those that engage in the work as well as of those among whom the exertion is put forth. Liberty to the cause of God is growing, in many cases alas! too slowly, but it is growing. The extract that has just been quoted shows a gratifying increase in the membership, which as shewn by the recently published statistics has been the case all over the Church. Another report says, "Larger additions have been made to the Communion Rolls within the last three years than ever before in a similar period. Purity of life is comparatively speaking satisfactory. An ever deepening solicitude is manifested in the conversion of the heathen world. As fast as additional missionaries are appointed a disposition is shewn in all parts of the Church to furnish means corresponding to the increasing number. Family religion is better attended to than it has been, in the elements both of teaching and of prayer. Our fathers laid much stress on the relationship of the family in carrying on the work of the Lord, but not any too much. That there is any revival of that grand old principle is a return to

"Reformation principles" which if we can see it realised to even a small degree is cause of deep thankfulness. The questions of Sabbath Observance and of Temperance need not be referred to in this narrative, as they come before the Synod in another form.

WORK FOUND FOR ELDERS.

There is reason to believe there is somewhat of a revival going on in the mode in which the Ruling Elders duties and responsibilities are looked at, not only by members of the Church as a whole, but by these office-bearers themselves. The difference of manner in which the office is regarded as compared with the past is growing year by year. The ornamental or honorary sinecure that used to characterise many of the Elders is being swept away, and none of us will mourn its utter destruction. The source of power and of usefulness has long lain dormant in that class of office-bearers is being tapped and the outflow is beginning to be utilised with the happiest results. There is plenty of room for the activity of the Elders even where the pastoral charge is limited in area and compact in the families of which it is composed; but when the charges are extensive and the preaching stations numerous, so numerous that the minister cannot preach in each every Sabbath, it is then that the gifts and graces of the members of Session become so apt and profitable. There and in vacant charges where no supplies are forthcoming the means of grace in all the forms to which our people are accustomed on Sabbath and week days, are to be kept up by them with creditableness and profit. The membership generally too are beginning to shew signs of life and activity that in many places were not to be seen at all, or else were so feeble as not to be worth mentioning. In cities and towns house to house visitation and other evangelistic effort are being organized into a system, all of which seems to promise more, much more, than anything that has yet been attained. It is found already, as the diligent student of the Bible knew all along to be the inevitable result, that in watering others these fellow-labourers with God are being watered themselves.

REVIVAL IN CAPE BRETON.

One portion of the Church has been reported at previous meetings of Synod as experiencing the blessing of a revival, and still it seems to be in the enjoyment of times of refreshing. Reference is now made to the Island of Cape Breton. It is cause for regret that no report has been made by the Presbyteries there. From time to time, however, notices of the work going on have appeared in the public prints. The writer of some of the notices