

in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, to every nation and kindred and people and tongue."

THE REPORT ON INTemperance.

The Special Committee appointed in the Autumn on the subject of intemperance presented a voluminous report, which has been published as a pamphlet of fourteen closely printed pages. It recommends an annual sermon, in every church, on the sin of intemperance, an earnest consideration of the results of recent scientific researches in regard to alcoholic beverages, the organization of Bands of Hope, the removal of friendly societies from public houses to schoolrooms, petitions in favour of Sunday closing of public-houses, limitations of hours of sale on week days, diminution of the number and more efficient inspection of such houses, the withdrawal of grocers' licenses, and suppression of music-halls and dancing-rooms in connection with such places; and lastly, it encourages the opening of places of refreshment conducted on temperance principles, and the improvement of the conditions of life among the poor, specially in regard to their dwellings and their places and forms of amusement, in so far as these lay them open to temptations to intemperance. A resolution commending this document to the attention of the churches was carried unanimously. The chairman was also directed to sign a petition to the Legislature in favour of Sunday closing.

A resolution was also passed deploring the effects of the opium trade, and calling upon the Congregational Churches to unite in a demand for a change of the Government policy in regard to it.

The remainder of the session was occupied with a discussion of

THE EASTERN QUESTION,

which was then, as indeed it is still, the all engrossing topic before the public mind. The outburst of enthusiasm when the Rev. R. W. Dale arose to introduce the subject, indicated how offensive was the Government policy in seeking to commit the nation to the Turkish cause, professedly for the maintenance of British interests. Mr. Dale, deplored the necessity for the withdrawal by Mr. Gladstone of two of his resolutions, in order to secure the united support of the Liberal party, but said, he believed that had Mr. Gladstone only promulgated the two resolutions which have been thus endorsed by the Liberal leader, the unparalleled movement witnessed from end to end of England would have lacked much of its existing earnestness and enthusiasm. The resolutions would, however, meet the immediate danger by telling the Government what they must not do. Mr. Dale eulogised Mr. Gladstone (the mention of whose name again elicited rounds of applause) for the magnificent service which he had rendered to the country. There were some who seemed desirous of confining themselves to politics which had grown obsolete—who would descant on the politics of Babylon and Persia, and glorify the saints of the Commonwealth—forgetting that when need required they too were men of "blood and iron"—but for himself, he desired to see God's will done on earth now, and to that end rejoiced in the result of the appeal which had been made to the conscience of the nation by Mr. Gladstone, of whom he spoke as "one of the greatest preachers of righteousness God ever sent." He moved: "That this meeting records its high appreciation of the noble and courageous devotion to the cause of righteousness and freedom, the generous self-sacrifice and the chivalrous spirit, which have characterised the action of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in relation to the Eastern policy of this country, and at the same time rejoices in the influence he has exerted in eliciting so unparalleled a manifestation of public opinion against any attempt to lend the moral or material support of this nation to a despotism guilty of the crimes which have disgraced the Government of Turkey and must discredit its allies."

The Rev. Dr. Allon seconded the resolution, and the Revs. Dr. Raleigh, New-