

held at Gloucester it is stated, "on Sabbath especially, the interest was very marked. At the communion which followed these services, ten persons were received as members of the Church, and others were prevented from joining the Church at that time only by the inclemency of the weather and distance. The deputation left with the feeling that that place had been to many the house of God and the gate of heaven. Respecting the services conducted at Storington the report remarks: "From the first evening some appeared to be arrested; the number in attendance nightly increased, and the attention became more and more devout. Evidences of religious concern were afterwards seen among the young. The services were highly prized by God's people as a means of quickening; and since the services were held the spirit of prayer seems to have been largely given." Respecting the season of special services held at Vank-leek Hill a very full report is given, both of the manner in which the meetings were conducted and of their results. The preaching was continued for ten successive days. The time of each meeting was limited to an hour and a half. Generally, three addresses were given, and by previous consultation and arrangement, were closely connected in the train of thought presented, being generally founded on the same portion of Scripture, and bringing out the truth in its different relations and applications so as fully to state and explain the Gospel plan of salvation. They were almost entirely void of appeals to the feelings; dealing chiefly with the understanding and the conscience. The members of the deputation met a short time for prayer and consultation both before and after the evening's work. The person reporting says, "After prayer by one or more of us we went straight to the meeting; immediately on our return we sought the Divine blessing on our work; and then with our whole exercises fresh in mind, considered which of the topics discussed needed a fuller illustration, at which point we had left our hearers; and whole new topics would now be suggested to their minds. We could not resist the conviction that much of the power and profitableness of our public services depended on this conference, and prayer among ourselves. As we went on, our work became in a very high degree interesting to ourselves, and we found ourselves able to declare the truth of God with a power and freedom much beyond ordinary, securing an increasing attention day by day." As to results, it is stated, "At the close of our visit, there were all the signs of an extensive awakening. On the last night sixty or seventy persons waited behind in an anxious state of mind. Seven of the young people professed openly to have found peace in believing, and twice as many more were in a condition of deep spiritual anxiety. Many of God's people have been greatly refreshed. They have found it a time rich in salvation. The dew of their youth has returned to some of them.

Your Committee in reporting on the state of religion felt, called on to make a distinct reference to these evangelical services reported by the Synod of Montreal. There may have been circumstances of similar interest in other sections of the Church, but if so, your Committee has not been put in possession of information respecting them.

One part of the inquiry made by the Committee in its circular was respecting the *hindrances* to vital religion. On this point, the replies mention the things commonly found to be obstacles in the way of the spread of the Saviour's kingdom—Intemperance is generally mentioned first, though, as already noticed, a happy decrease of the sin is reported from several places. The highly prosperous state of the country leading to increased eagerness for wealth; and an undue devotion to business pursuits, and a desire to advance in worldly position and appearance, is spoken of as turning away the attention from things unseen and eternal—and as closely connected with this, alarm is expressed at the consequences arising from a prevalent desire for amusements and the connection which these are often made to assume with the name of religion. The prevalence of Sabbath-breaking and profane swearing are deplored, and the increase of these in some localities where railways have recently been built is referred to. In two reports from sessions connected with the Synod of Hamilton, there is mentioned, with expressed regret, a very noticeable want of harmony