

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

In presenting their Annual Report, the Committee on the State of Religion beg to notice, that in accordance with the recommendation of last Synod a series of monthly tracts has been prepared by ministers in various Presbyteries, and published through the agency of the Committee on Publication at Hamilton. These tracts have, upon the whole, been well received, and their circulation has amounted to 43,390, of which 1,546 have been circulated gratuitously. The tracts issued have been as follows, viz:—

1. "The Church and the World," by Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal.
2. "Quench not the Spirit," by Rev. T. Wardrope.
3. "Salvation," by the Rev. D. Inglis.
4. "Prayer," by the Rev. Wm. Gregg.
5. On the "Work of the Spirit," by the Rev. J. McTavish.
6. On "Regeneration," by the Rev. W. McAlister.
- 7 and 8. On "Liberality" by the Rev. R. F. Burns.
9. On "The Sabbath," by the Rev. J. Alexander.

In accordance further with the recommendations of last Synod, seasons of conference and prayer have been held by the several Presbyteries, and it is believed by many of the Sessions and Deacons' Courts. From the Reports of the Corresponding Members of the various Presbyteries, the following particulars have been gathered regarding the state of religion throughout our Church:—

1st. As regards the state of family religion the Reports differ much. Two Presbyteries report, that family worship is not so regularly attended to as might be expected in so large a membership; another Presbytery reports that family worship is regularly maintained by most of the members, and by not a few of the adherents.

2nd. The Reports state that the religious training of the young is, upon the whole, attended to, either by parents or Sabbath School teachers, and all the reports speak favorably of Sabbath Schools throughout the Church,

though in some of the Reports complaints are made of the tendency of parents to transfer their obligations to the Sabbath School teacher.

3rd. The Reports of the various Corresponding members state, that, while there is a vast amount of Sabbath desecration throughout the country, upon the whole, the Sabbath is observed by most of the members of our Church in a becoming manner; and all the Reports speak favorably of the attention and attendance of the people on the public means of grace, and that their liberality to religious and charitable objects is, upon the whole, satisfactory.

4th. Most of the Reports mention cases of hopeful awakening and conversion in individual cases, but there is a general complaint throughout the whole of them, that there is nothing like that wide-spread and extended revival which our ministers are longing for, and hope yet to be privileged to see.

Among the causes of the low state of religion the Reports mention the following:—over-engagement in wordly business—light amusement—satisfaction with the mere externals of religion—drinking usages—laxity of admission to sealing ordinances on the part of our own Church, and other denominations.

Many means are suggested in the various Reports, such as—1st, A more direct preaching of Christ, and earnest endeavors to reach the hearts and consciences of the hearers.

2nd. More faithful dealing with heads of families by Ministers and Kirk Sessions, regarding family worship.

3rd. A closer and more direct supervision of Sabbath Schools by Presbyteries.

4th. Frequent ministerial conferences for prayer and counsel among the members of the Church Courts.

The Report of your Committee is of a very varied character, and while it presents much that is hopeful in the state of religion throughout our Church, and a few tokens of the Lord's presence in our midst, at the same time it exhibits much to call for humiliation on the part of office-bearers and people, and the necessity of earnest persevering efforts after a revival of religion.

In conclusion your Committee would humbly