

After careful deliberation, with earnest prayer to God for the guidance and teaching of His Holy Spirit, your Committee again sent out questions on this subject to all the Sessions of the Church. In the report for last year, the belief was expressed that the number of returns (164) was the largest number that had been received in any year, in reply to similar inquiries. The number received this year is 196. From some Presbyteries the number of returns is almost complete: that is, one from every Session. From others, the number of returns is a mere fraction of the number of Sessions. In the Presbytery of London, for example, whether from inattention to the matter, or disapproval of the form in which the questions are sent, only five Sessions out of thirty-four send returns. The small number of returns from the London Presbytery seems the more remarkable, from the fact that, in the other three Presbyteries of the Synod of London, with an aggregate number of fifty-five Sessions, there are only eleven in all that have sent no returns.

SYNOD OF LONDON.

The Report of this Synod shows that, in the Presbytery of Huron, 19 Sessions have sent in returns: Stratford, 11; Chatham, 14; London, 5. Besides the Synodical Report, there are reports from all the Presbyteries: that from the Presbytery of London, concluding with a recommendation that "the Synod should issue a pastoral address, bearing chiefly on family worship, secret prayer, personal piety, and the training of the young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." With reference to the Assembly's questions on the State of Religion, the Synodical Report contains a recommendation that "Presbyteries be directed to appoint one of their number to receive the reports of Sessions, and prepare a report based on them; and that such person be *ex officio* a member of the Committee on Evangelistic Work."

SYNOD OF HAMILTON.

In the Synod of Hamilton forty-six Sessions have sent in returns: Presbytery of Hamilton, 9; Paris, 16; Guelph, (including returns forwarded to the Convener of the Assembly's Committee, after meeting of Synod), 14; Durham, 4; Bruce, 3. In the Synodical Report, attention is called to the cheering fact that "in some of the Reports from Presbyteries and Sessions, it is stated that the Spirit of God has been working on the hearts of many connected with the Churches in this district of country," and that, "in several congregations, large additions have been made to the membership of the Church, of many who were not previously members."

SYNOD OF TORONTO.

From this Synod there appears a very full and instructive report. It shows that returns have been received from fifty-two Sessions: Presbytery of Cobourg, 9; Ontario, 11; Toronto, 15; Simcoe, 12; Owen Sound, 5. This report leads to the encouraging conclusion that "the tide of Christian liberality is steadily rising throughout the bounds of the Synod; that the interests of God's children in God's work at home and abroad appears to be deepening; that the Lord is not unmindful of His people, and that in many places He is granting them manifold tokens of good; that, while the love of some waxes cold, and there is much worldliness, forgetfulness of God, and desecration of His Sabbath, His work is clearly reviving in different parts of His Church."