

redeemed by the granters, represent the sum of £2,262 1s. 9d., and there is a balance in the hands of Messrs. Bryce, McMurich, & Co. at this date of £472 17s. 6d. Your Committee in stating that it has pleased Him who doeth all things well, to place another widow on this fund, by removing his devoted and faithful servant, Professor Esson, would urgently call upon every member of the Synod, to endeavour to stir up the various congregations to which he belongs, to a sense of the importance of making up the capital of this fund to the contemplated amount of at least £3,000, which considering the increased responsibilities of this church, and the increasing numbers of its adherents, is most surely a small boon to desire.

There is an amount of cash, belonging to all the various funds, in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Gale, collected since the beginning of May last, which amounted on the 9th inst., to £238 9s. 5d.; the expenditure of which cannot appear till next meeting of Synod, not having been placed to the credit of the various funds.

Your Committee must again impress on Congregations and Presbyteries, the necessity of punctuality in sending all their accounts by the 31st of May at the very latest. They lament that although the same injunction has been repeatedly made, it does not seem to produce the impression it ought. They must say honestly, that it is perfectly impossible for the most experienced and diligent agent, to make up a satisfactory return, when he has not the data to work upon.

In conclusion, your Committee in acknowledging the goodness of him who holds the hearts of men in his hands, for his goodness in temporal benefits to this church, would pray for an increased measure of liberality from the people, who are only stewards of God's bounty for a season, and are responsible for the use of the same.

A. D. FERRIER, *Convener*.

KNOX'S CHURCH, HAMILTON,
10th June, 1853.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INTemperance.

Your Committee consider it unnecessary to present any lengthened Report. Their attention has been directed to the subject of Intemperance, although circumstances have prevented a full meeting of the members of Committee. It would have been desirable to collect the statistics of Intemperance with special reference to the congregations belonging to our own Church, as your Committee are satisfied that the result would have formed a most powerful argument in favour of temperance or total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. This, however, has not yet been done, though there has been correspondence with various ministers throughout the bounds of the Church, with the view of ascertaining the present position of our congregations in regard to Temperance. Almost all who have replied have borne testimony to the prevalence of Intemperance, and to the sad effects produced by it both on the temporal and spiritual condition of those who have come under its influence. One minister writes—"three violent deaths occurred to inhabitants of this place in the space of about four months. All the three individuals were drunkards, and appear to have been prematurely cut off through the effects of strong drink, and all the three were at one time connected more or less with our own Church." Your Committee firmly believe that, as no habit has led to so many crimes and occasioned so much temporal distress and suffering, so none has, in our day, so much retarded the progress of religion and proved such a hindrance to ministers in their efforts to extend the Redeemer's Kingdom among their fellow men. Where is the congregation that has not suffered from this evil? Where is the minister

who has not had to deplore the ravages of Intemperance, and has not seen his efforts to do good thwarted and neutralized? How many individuals should we find once occupying important and prominent positions, not only in the world but in the Church, but who have irretrievably fallen through strong drink, and have brought not only ruin and disgrace upon themselves and their families but an indelible blot on the cause of religion!

Your Committee rejoice to believe that, while many are daily falling victims to Intemperance, the prospects of Temperance are on the whole encouraging. It is encouraging to view the progress of Temperance not only among the community generally, but especially among our own ministers and Elders. From inquiries that have been instituted, it may be safely asserted, that upwards of three-fourths of the ministers of this Synod, and a very large proportion of the Elders, are decidedly in favour of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, and are by their exhortations, and what is more, by their influence and example, warning others against the insidious enemy. It is encouraging too to contemplate the great improvement that has taken place throughout society generally in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks. Many families and individuals, not decidedly in favour of total abstinence, have yet in a great measure discontinued the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. And it is cheering to see the progress of the Temperance cause even in the halls of our Legislature. During the present session of Parliament numerous petitions were presented, and among them one from the Synod of our Church, praying for the enactment of a law to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. The prayer of these petitions has not been granted, but still the issue has been on the whole encouraging—the majority against a Bill introduced by Hon. M. Cameron, being only four. It is evident then that although we have still reason to deplore the lamentable prevalence of Intemperance, there are not a few encouraging tokens. And surely this consideration ought to stimulate the benevolent, and more especially the Christian Church, to strive more earnestly for the entire uprooting of this gigantic evil. For your Committee are decidedly of opinion that, notwithstanding the amount of good that has been done by the various Temperance organizations at present in existence, the evil cannot be thoroughly or permanently removed unless the Church direct its attention to it more decidedly than has yet been done.

As to the measures which your Committee would respectfully recommend to the Synod, they are the following: 1. They would recommend that the Synod take action as at last session, and petition the Legislature for a Prohibitory Law, inasmuch as experience has demonstrated the utter impossibility of restricting or regulating the License system. 2. They would recommend that the attention of Kirk Sessions be called to the subject and that the Synod urge them to greater fidelity in dealing with those who by their intemperance or tipping habits bring a reproach on the Church and on the cause of Christ. 3. They would suggest that the Synod recommend ministers to preach from time to time on the subject of intemperance, and warn their people of the danger resulting from the habitual use of intoxicating drinks. 4. They would recommend that the Synod earnestly and affectionately entreat all the ministers, office-bearers, and members of the Church, to pursue such a course in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks as shall bear the most decided practical testimony against the prevailing vice of Intemperance, remove temptation from themselves, and free themselves from the serious responsibility of countenancing the use of intoxicating drinks by others.

Such are some of the practical measures recommended by the Committee, the adoption of which, they humbly hope, would, through the

blessing of God, without whose direction and blessing no moral or spiritual work can succeed, tend to check the evils of intemperance, and thus promote the glory of God, the purity of the Church, and the best interests of mankind.

WILLIAM REID, *Convener*.

APPALLING STATE OF LONDON.

The following picture of the spiritual destitution of the great metropolis was drawn the other day, at the public meeting of the London City Mission, by the Rev. E. Bickersteth, Rector of St. Giles, London:—

The population of the area within which the labours of this Society are carried on, amounts to 2,528,000 souls. Ten years ago the church and chapel accommodation was 601,518 sittings, for a population of about 2,000,000. Since that time, the population has increased over 400,000 souls, and it may be that the increase of church and chapel accommodation has been 100,000 sittings. So whatever need existed ten years ago, it has not been diminished. But there is another statistical division of the population, which exhibits a point I wish to bring before you in a still more remarkable aspect. The whole population of London has been divided into those who attend no place of worship whatever, those who do attend places of worship, and those who attend the communion. It appears from this statement, that there are upwards of 1,400,000 who attend no place of religious worship whatever. There are 800,000 persons who do with some degree of regularity attend places of religious worship. But out of this enormous population of 2,500,000, there are only 60,000 who exhibit their faith and allegiance to Christ by partaking of the emblems which shadow forth to us his blood shed for the sins of the world. But even from those 800,000 who attend divine service, we have to reduce 100,000 Roman Catholics, who belong to a religion which, in its principles and practices, is both superstitious and idolatrous, and, besides these, we must deduct 20,000 Jews, who are ignorant of our Lord Jesus Christ. And let us see the state of things which presents itself when we come to analyse this population. Amongst the 1,400,000 who attend no place of religious worship at all, we shall naturally expect to find a fearful amount of vice and immorality. And what is the case? We learn that there are 12,000 children annually trained to crime; 3,000 receivers of stolen goods known to the police; 4,000 persons annually committed for breaking the law; 10,000 persons known to be addicted to gambling; 20,000 persons known to have no honest means of getting their livelihood, unless begging from door to door be considered an honest means; 23,000 persons on an average annually taken by the police in a state of helpless intoxication in the street; 150,000 persons known to be habitually addicted to getting drunk; and 150,000 living in habits of open profligacy. Surely we cannot survey a state of things like this without trembling for the metropolis, and wondering what God may have in store for a city in which his holy name is dreadfully profaned from day to day. But let us again learn something of the cause and effects connected with the statements I have just given. Every Lord's day, the Sabbath is profaned by the arrival and departure of 363 trains upon the railroads. Not less than eighty steam-boats ply on the river; for the management of which boats 500 persons are required. There are upwards of 9,000 persons connected with our omnibuses, the majority of which are employed on the Lord's day. And in the area operated upon by this Society, there are 14,000 shops regularly opened on that day, and it is said that if they were placed in one continuous line they would extend for a distance of thirty miles. The Rev. gentleman said he would now come to still more minute details, and just refer to the state of the parish of St. Giles'.