

Council have strenuously exerted themselves, and they rejoice to say that their efforts have not been wholly unsuccessful.

Since the last public meeting of the Association, seventeen tracts have been issued, all, save one, within the last two years. It is to be hoped that these have been studied by the members, and circulated amongst their friends; but as there are probably many present who are unacquainted with these publications, a brief sketch of their contents may not prove unacceptable.

The first of these tracts, entitled "Turkey, Russia, and English Interference," was the production of a gentleman originally opposed to the war, but afterwards, only anxious to carry it on vigorously, and bring it to a successful conclusion. Its two main objects were to denounce our constant intermeddling in the domestic affairs of foreign nations, and the system of secret diplomacy which is constantly involving us in disputes, often on grounds which would be puerile if they only affected individuals, but which are preposterous in the highest degree as between friendly nations. The Council hold that the Parliament and people of this country have a constitutional right to be consulted before either war is declared or peace concluded; and that the exclusive privilege of doing both, claimed for the crown, by those who act in its name, is a usurpation.

The next tract was an exposure of the abuses of the Ecclesiastical Courts of Record, contributed gratuitously by William Downing Bruce, Esq., barrister at law. On this subject the Council refer with satisfaction to a beneficial obstruction of legislation by the Peers during the last Session of Parliament. They allude to the Government bill establishing a new ecclesiastical tribunal, at an annual expense of £50,000, in addition to about thrice that sum as an outfit, for the transaction of part of the business of the existing courts, (which were to be continued,) the decision of doctrinal disputes, and the trial of clerical delinquents, averaging, perhaps, about half a dozen per annum. Scarcely ever was there a more flagrant attempt at a job; yet it received the sanction of the peoples' representatives, and was rejected by the House of Lords.

The next tract, entitled "The way the public money goes," shows that seven years ago, 37,301 persons, exclusive of the hosts employed in the Royal Household, the diplomatic and consular establishments, and the civil services abroad, divided amongst them £5,895,982 in the shape of salaries, pensions, and retired