

subject. Conferences having been held at three of its regular meetings, and addresses given to public and interested audiences, and the Presbytery of Brockville, the only one in which the subject was never taken up, and from the Sessions of which no reports were received. In that of Toronto two Presbyteries, Simcoe and Cobourg sent reports, and those of Toronto, Ontario, and Owen Sound neglected to do so. Whether any conferences were held by the Presbyteries of this Synod, the report does not say. In the Synod of Hamilton the result of the injunction to Presbyteries was similar. Paris and Durham complied with it, while Hamilton and Guelph made no reports, neither is there anything said of conferences held by Presbyteries. The Synod of London, as already intimated, had not requested any information on the subject, either from Presbyteries or Sessions. This Synod however had at its last meeting under consideration several intimately connected with the state of religion, such as the subject of Sabbath School instruction; the best means of interesting Congregations in the general work of the Church; and the best method of managing Congregations in order to secure their general prosperity.

So far as the evidence furnished to your Committee goes, only 68 of all the Congregations belonging to the Church responded to the request for information on the state of religion among them. This may be partly accounted for from the late period at which the Assembly's Committee sent its circular. But where Presbyteries had previously asked information, the silence of Sessions cannot be thus explained, and must we fear be regarded as evidencing a want of interest in the subject. Of the 68 reporting, there are in the Synod of Montreal 23; in the Synod of Toronto 16; in the Synod of Hamilton 17; and in the Synod of London 12. It is stated that the number in the Synod of Montreal is greater than in the previous year.

Many of the statements are very brief, too much so, to be of value in indicating the state of religion, but others are full and of such a nature as to imply an interest in the subject and a desire that increased attention should be given to it. The information sent is mostly of a favorable kind. There are mentioned as evidences of a healthy state of religion such particulars as a steady, and in many instances, an increasing attendance on Sabbath services; additions to the membership by profession of faith in the Saviour for the first time; which, in several congregations, are said to have been larger during the past year than usual; in some cases a manifestation of decided interest in religion, shown by a readiness to converse and make inquiries on the subject and by a fuller attendance at congregational and district prayer meetings; activity on the part of members in works of benevolence and piety; a marked change in regard to the subject of temperance by an abandoning of the drinking usages of society, and a greatly increased liberality towards the mission schemes of the Church. One Session belonging to the Synod of Hamilton reports "prayer meetings among children;" and another "a manifested longing for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The report from the Synod in Toronto states that in some congregations "there has been what may be regarded as an awakening.

As already stated the Synod of Montreal has given much attention to the state of religion within its bounds, and employed means for obtaining its revival. Through a Committee to which the matter was intrusted, arrangements were made for holding special services in several localities. In some instances unfavorable circumstances prevented the arrangements from being carried out; and in others, where the services were held, discouragements were met with at the commencement. But generally where the intended meetings were conducted, decided profit was experienced both by Ministers and people, prejudices were removed, an interest awakened, Christians refreshed, non-professors seriously impressed, and several—so far as human judgment could determine—brought into a state of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Respecting the season of continuous preaching held at Madoc, the report states that, "the attendance grew, the solemn feeling deepened, and in two or three cases evidence was subsequently given of a saving change." Of the meetings