

earnings of Great Britain and Ireland are wasted in intoxicating liquors. Is it any marvel that crime and poverty and ignorance and heathenism are rife there? In this Dominion we are not as deeply sunk in the mire as they are in the fatherland. It is hardly credible that we spend even one fifth of our earnings in intoxicating liquors, and unless the statements made by the country sessions be wide of the facts the people of this county do not spend \$350,000 per year in intoxicating drinks which would be their proportion of the amount used. The facts however, while they encourage us to persevere in the good work are serious enough to waken up this Pby. and the whole church to a sense of the awful magnitude of the evil with which we have to contend. We are in the grip of a terrible foe and nothing short of wisely concerted persevering determined effort will win for us a victory, or enable us to hold our own.

Your Committee would recommend that the Pby would emphasize anew the recommendation of the General Assembly of 1882—that all ministers, elders and office bearers in our church be strongly urged to use their best endeavours to dissuade all members of our church from lending any countenance to a traffic so fraught with injury to the country and the church.

2. That ministers take frequent occasion from the pulpit and platform to acquaint their people with the true character of alcoholic beverages and their effects upon the mind and body, upon temporal and eternal interests, how they blunt conscience blur character and blast every hope.

3. That we do our best to obtain legislation still more stringent and prohibitive than what we now have.

ROBT. CUMMING,
Convener.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

The committee of the Free Church in Scotland anent the duty of Systematic Giving to the cause of Christ have issued the following circular to the members of their church. We take the liberty of copying it for our readers and would only say, "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest," pray over and practice.

"DEAR FRIENDS,—We desire to bring before you, in a few words the principles connected with this important subject,

which it is our object to extend, and which we feel sure, if generally acted upon, would tend to increase the whole funds of our Church to an extent far beyond anything yet realised. Much might be said, but we think it best to be very brief, and merely to indicate some of the leading points which are of special importance in connection with this matter, trusting that you will give them your earnest and prayerful consideration.

I. Why we should Give.—Because we are taught in God's Word that He desires the gifts of His people for the support and extension of His cause and kingdom in the world, and for the necessities of our fellow-men. The work of spreading the Gospel is often limited for want of means, and we are enabled by our gifts to "associate the common labours of life with the grateful service of the Saviour." Our possessions are not our own. All things come of God (1 Chron. xxix. 14-16; Hag. ii. 8; 1 Cor. iv. 7). We hold all as stewards for God. Money may be one of the least of the talents which God has committed to our care, but none the less does He require us to use it aright.

Giving should be an act of Christian worship, a duty, a privilege, a means of grace, a source of joy, a test and proof of real dedication. Money lies very near our hearts, and our giving affords one indication of the strength of our faith and love, and is calculated to influence the worldly around us.

II. How we should Give.—It is important that we should give *on principle, conscientiously and systematically*, not trusting merely to the guidance of feeling. There must be "a steady and conscientious dedication in proportion to means" (1 Cor. xvi. 2); "a deliberate purpose to give, a plan and principle of giving, and a constant provision in order to be prepared to give;" a previous storing or laying aside of a definite part of our means for the claims of God; and, as these are of first importance, they should be provided for *first*. God's portion should be the *first-fruits* and not the *dregs*. There is abundant testimony to the many advantages connected with this system of a separate fund, and to its great influence in promoting liberal and cheerful giving. "When the money is not set aside, every appeal has to contend with selfishness and covetousness; but when thus dedicated, it is *already given*, and the only question is as to its allocation and distribution." If the Members of the Church generally were to adopt this plan, it can scarcely be doubted that the result