

sions this year and by the hand of such as Dr. Cochrane and Mr. Gordon in past years. The Committee will be well-advised if such visits are continued and a selection of representative men made. Not only will a living interest be maintained in the Presbyterian Church of Canada, but in Canada itself, for a tour of the country by such as Dr. Robertson could scarcely fail in impressing the people with the stuff our men are made of and the energy of our agencies.

Turning to the Home Mission report, an extract from which will be found in another column, there is cause for thankfulness. The Committee give a noble account of its arduous work. We feel that as long as the Home Mission work of the church is generously and joyously supported that the church is alive, and the report gives every evidence of having done its duty well last year. We must not suggest a limit to the liberality of the church in any one direction and we believe that one of the great problems before the church to-day is how to bring about a system of giving which will be proportionate, but when a committee makes ends meet as the Home Mission Committee has done without a serious retrenchment then rejoicing and congratulations are appropriate.

Throughout the reports for the Western and Eastern Sections are very interesting and encouraging remarks, such for instance as the following from the Eastern. "In the fields supplied by our missionaries there are about 4,000 families that hold connection with the Presbyterian Church. They raise for the support of Ordinances about \$16,000 a year and contribute to the Schemes of the Church with a fair measure of liberality. On the whole they meet very well one of the conditions on which the church is expected to help them liberally, namely, that they help themselves, if not to the full extent of their ability, at least to a degree comparing favorably with that of the strong congregations"

#### TWO NEW PROFESSORS.

In addition to the general interest still felt in Canada in the Theological Colleges of Scotland, the appointments, just announced, of two new professors, one in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow, have a special interest arising from the fact that the men chosen, Mr. Martin, and Dr. Denny were spoken of in connection with one of the vacancies at Knox College last year. Dr. Denny is well-known as an able scholar and thinker, and an author of no mean note. Mr. Martin is scarcely less distinguished. He succeeds to the Chair of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology in the new college, rendered vacant by the resignation of Dr. Blaikie. For thirteen years he has been a minister in Morningside, Edinburgh. His father was Dr. Hugh Martin the theologian. Dr. Ross Taylor who proposed his election gave him this high testimony: "Besides having the qualities which had made him a most successful minister, Mr. Martin had, he said, the rarer gifts and endowments which qualified a man to train the future ministers of the church. His incisive intellect, his well balanced judgment, his grasp of all the great problems of the day, his high moral tone, his devout spirit, and withal, that subtle magnetic influence over younger men which belonged only to a chosen few; all these things pointed to Mr. Martin as a man who ought to be entrusted with the work of preparing their future ministers. It had been stated that they had no guarantee as to what his views might be. In case there should be any such feeling, he said that during the thirteen years Mr. Martin had labored in Edinburgh there had not been the smallest breath of

suspicion as to his absolute orthodoxy as to the great vital truths of our great Creed. There was not the shallow of a doubt in regard to the position Mr. Martin occupied in his staunch belief in our great Calvinistic Creed." Dr. Denny's appointment is to Glasgow Free Church College to the chair of Systematic Theology vacated by the death of the late Professor Candlish. It is felt in Scotland that these appointments will add greatly to the teaching strength and prestige of the Free Church. Dr. Blaikie's age and infirmities had been a hindrance to the activity and energy which Mr. Martin will bring to the College. He will also bring a scholarship in keeping with that of Davidson, the eminent Hebraist. Dr. Denny is probably not a better theologian than Professor Candlish was—that would be difficult indeed, but he possesses many class-room qualities his predecessor lacked, and his work will circulate in a wider world than the class-room. Without hesitation the sister church may be most heartily congratulated on the choice she has made in her new men.

#### PROGRESS OF TEMPERANCE.

The portion of the report on Church Life and Work, dealing with temperance will be read with considerable satisfaction. Decided progress is reported "both as to habits of sobriety, and a sentiment in favor of legal prohibition." The ravages of drink are not overlooked and one Presbytery presents a lurid arraignment. Its black-list of evils resulting from intemperance includes the following: "Drunkenness, profanity, vice, poverty, squalor, misery, spiritual indifference, irreligion, domestic woe, the wreck of promising lives, ignorance, taxation of industrious people, loss of moral principle, crime, searing of conscience, paralysis of trade, destruction of manhood, Sabbath breaking, loss of time, money and character, ruining young men, unpaid bills, gambling, fighting, suicide, death."

These evils prevail more or less everywhere, yet it is gratifying to read in the report, that notwithstanding these manifestations of vice, the committee finds "that the tendency is decidedly upward and that the long process of education, and especially the power of Christian truth are beginning to exert a beneficent influence."

With respect to the plebiscite the committee urges upon the people "not to unduly postpone preparations, and not to esteem too lightly the foe we have to face. There is danger of expecting an easy victory in the coming contest, arising from past plebiscite majorities. But the awful energy and unscrupulous character of the liquor traffic will be brought out on this occasion as never before. Let this be matched by the sublimest effort the Church and all good people have ever made to overthrow this great evil." We commend these suggestions to our readers for should the conditions hinted at in Parliament surround the plebiscite ballot, undoubtedly the fight will be uphill.

It has been argued that prohibition will decimate the revenues of the Government and bring about direct taxation and this contention is fairly and fully met by the prohibitionists when they say that crime would be reduced with its contingent expense; further, that the material welfare of the community would more than make up the difference between the present revenue and the amount when reduced by the loss of the liquor duties. A contemporary recently gave most valuable figures bearing directly on the question, as follows: "For ten years, up to 1886, Cambridge was under license, half of the time under general law and half of the time under local option. Here is a chance to com-