

within and without, full of Sabbath desecration, gambling, debauchery, drunkenness and ruin. These three causes must be met by their corresponding cures; viz., suasion for the head; the fashion of a better associated example for the conventional usage, and the prohibition of the traffic by legal enactment, as crown and complement of the temperance movement.

While your Committee do not underrate the value of many of the organizations now in operation for the suppression of intemperance, and for the advancement of the Temperance Reform, nor the sacrificing spirit manifested by many in the ranks of the great Temperance Army, yet we believe, that under existing circumstances, it is to the Church of Christ, in her collective character, and to Christians in their individual capacity, we must look, under the blessing of God, for an abatement of this evil.

Your Committee are gratified to learn that several of our largest and most flourishing congregations have established congregational Total Abstinence Societies, with the Kirk Session for a staff of office-bearers, and that the influence of these societies is already being felt for good. It is also gratifying to know that the recommendation of last year, viz., that sermons bearing on this evil should be preached on a certain day, has been very generally complied with. And your Committee would recommend,

1st. That this year also the ministers of this Church should preach to their people on the subject of Temperance on the third Sabbath of December, specially warning them against the drinking usages connected with our Christmas and New Year season.

2nd. That an appeal be prepared and addressed to the Church, setting forth the duty of individual abstinence, on the part of professing Christians, from all participation either in the traffic or use of intoxicating stimulants.

3rd. That Sessions organize Total Abstinence societies under their own control, in their several congregations, and strive as far as possible to have all their members enrolled.

4th. That in all our Sabbath Schools, the Total Abstinence pledge should be administered to as many as would accept of it with the consent of their parents.

5th. That, for total suppression of this great evil, among the masses of society, a vigorous and continued agitation should be kept up, with a view to the enactment of a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, or sale of intoxicating liquors, except for mechanical, medicinal or sacred uses.

Your Committee feel that were their recommendations followed out honestly and

energetically, that if the Church of Christ were to rise in her might and majesty and take her true position on this great question, and employ her combined energy, her moral power in its advancement, the drinking customs of society would feel the hand of the great Master laid on them, and the Temperance Reform receive a position and a power in the land which it has never yet attained.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN McLEOD, Convener.

#### Action of Synod on the Report.

The recommendations were considered *seriatim*. The first was adopted as follows:—

“That, this year also, the ministers of the church should preach to their people on the subject of Temperance, on the third Sabbath of December, specially warning them against the drinking usages connected with our Christmas and New Year’s season.”

The second was also adopted:—“That an appeal be prepared and addressed to the Church, setting forth the duty of individual abstinence on the part of professing Christians from all participation either in the traffic or use of intoxicating stimulants.” And the Committee was directed to carry out this resolution by preparing and publishing the address in such periodicals as they may think best fitted to further the desired object.

Instead of resolutions third and fourth, which recommended the organizing of Congregational Abstinence Societies, and the administration of the pledge in Sabbath schools, the following was substituted:—

“That Sessions and Sabbath School Teachers be recommended, as far as circumstances admit, to keep the evils of intemperance prominently before the minds of children in Sabbath Schools, and encourage them to practice the principles of total abstinence.”

The fourth recommendation, in favour of agitation to procure a prohibitory law, was, after discussion, withdrawn.

#### Request.

A letter from George McLeod, Esq., Executor of the Estate of the late George Kerr, Esq., of Chatham, requesting the Synod to authorize an agent to receive a Legacy bequeathed to the funds of this church, when it was agreed to notify Mr