

RELIGIOUS BODIES.

Shortly after the last Annual Meeting, a memorial, of which the following is an extract, was signed by the officers of the Ontario and Quebec Leagues, and transmitted to the religious bodies of both Provinces.

"It is our firm conviction that every facility afforded for the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, tends to the formation and fostering of an unnatural appetite, and that the magnitude of evils arising therefrom, and manifested in the injurious effects upon the social, moral, and spiritual interests of our country, can scarcely be over estimated.

As the result of thorough and careful investigation we are satisfied that, under the Divine blessing, personal abstinence from all intoxicants, organized efforts for promotion of Temperance principles, and combined and hearty church action, both clerical and lay, all uniting to secure the legislative suppression of the Liquor Traffic, are the only successful agencies for the removal of the evils of Intemperance.

Deeply sensible of the importance of our work, and the great need for soliciting the sympathy and co-operation of all Christians, we most respectfully reiterate our appeal to you, and earnestly hope you may see your way clear to urge the subject upon the ministers and members of your communion, recommending them by precept and example, to aid to the utmost of their power, the Temperance Reform, either by co-operating with existing Temperance Societies, or organizing societies in connection with their respective congregations."

The numerical, financial and moral strength, represented in the bodies to which the memorial was sent; the courteous and satisfactory treatment it received at their hands, and the fact that in no previous year has the subject engaged so much of their attention, lead us to believe that the true hearted philanthropy and self sacrificing piety of the land will ere long be fully drawn out, in earnest and unceasing efforts to overthrow the drinking customs, of society and to place the Liquor Traffic under the ban of "Prohibitory Law."

We have only room in this report for the most cursory *resumé* of the action taken by the various religious bodies. In connection with the Synod of the *Church of England*, of the Diocese of Montreal an important temperance conference was held which resulted in the organization of a Diocesan Association, formed for the purpose of encouraging the formation of temperance societies in the various parishes. Similar associations are contemplated in the Dioceses of Ontario and Toronto.

The Synod of Huron, expressed itself strongly in favor of wise, scriptural legislation, whilst the Synod of Quebec

"agrees to the expression of the memorial, relative to the great evils of intemperance, and will at all times use its influence in the promotion of temperance."

The minutes of Synod of Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, contains the following resolution:—

"That the Synod, while rejoicing in the success which has attended the efforts put forth, not only directly by the various sections of the church of Christ, but also by general societies and associations for promoting temperance and suppressing the fearful evils of intemperance, again earnestly urge all under our influence to be diligent and faithful, both in testifying against those usages which foster the evils referred to, and setting such an example as may, with the blessing of God, greatly tend to promote temperance in our land."