

MISSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Soon after the last Annual Meeting, the City Mission Committee proposed to transfer their missionary, Mr. Owens, to our Association, and with him the entire charge of the work in connection with the Barrack Street Mission Chapel. Your committee, after much careful and prayerful consideration, accepted the proposal for one year, thus guaranteeing to provide the necessary funds for the salary of the missionary, as well as the incidental expenses of the building, so generously placed at our disposal by Mr. Jost. This work has indeed been one of faith. Your committee had to find the funds necessary to carry it forward—upwards of fifty dollars per month.

Several times the missionary's salary had just become due, and the committee anxiously wondering where it was to come from, when some kind friend would Providentially be sent to our relief, and the means placed at our hands. We have had several striking instances of this, proving to us that the approbation of our dear Master is resting on this His own work, of giving the glad news of Salvation to the poor and wretched.

Mr. Owens has labored faithfully and zealously; his visits have been gladly welcomed in many a home, and we have abundant proof that his work has not been in vain.

The Sabbath School in the morning, at the Church, has been attended by a number of young children, who, were it not for our missionary and the kind friends who assist him, would doubtless grow up in perfect ignorance of the necessity of Salvation.

Your missionary has made 3,079 visits during the year, and held service in the Poor House and County Jail, besides assisting Mr. Grierson in street preaching on Sabbath afternoons and evenings. We earnestly commend him to the sympathies and prayers of the members. The following extracts are made from his report:—

"In bringing before you a Report of my labour during the past year, I must state that my experience in the work has been very similar to that of the previous year, it has been a mixture of encouragements and discouragements; the cause of the discouragements are chiefly the great and I think increasing prevalence of intemperance, and the very great indifference to religion which has existed in the past year, and in the difficulty we find in bringing even a few of those we visit to the house of God; as in spite of all our efforts there are scores and hundreds who spend in idleness or worse the whole of their Sabbaths, and seldom if ever put foot into a place of worship who are as much heathens in this respect as those who have never heard of God, or of a Saviour's love. This has weighed heavily upon my mind, and after a week of hard toil among them, my spirit has often been depressed to find my high expectations disappointed. But there is no doubt the want of suitable clothing, is one of the reasons for this; but I fear the chief reason which stands at the bottom of all, is the excessive rum drinking which prevails to an incredible extent in this district, and this evil is gaining a fearful hold