

Our Home Work.

OUR home work! What is it, or rather, what is it not, reaching as it does, from the most transient individual thought to the great problems that affect a whole nation. And yet, its greatness need not appal. We should rather be stimulated by the fact that the greatest flows from the smallest, and that our part of it is so easily within our reach. Just as the largest rivers are made up of individual rain drops, so the mightiest movements of a people, in any direction flow from individual thoughts. Get one heart, our own heart, better, purer, more Christ-like, life and work will follow, and in that proportion will all good be helped onward. And how vast and varied the home work that reaches out from this beginning, the increasing of love in home life, honesty in work, justice and truth in business life, kindness and purity in social life, uncorruptness in political life, zeal in church life, and devotion in Christian life.

TEMPERANCE.

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND SESSION RETURNS.

PARCELS of circulars containing the questions on Temperance approved by the last General Assembly were sent to Conveners of Presbyteries' Committees on Temperance for distribution to Sessions and Mission stations.

The returns received from Sessions last year were, on the whole, the fullest and most satisfactory ever sent in on this subject, but there is still much room for improvement. Since the Assembly has seen fit to appoint a standing committee on Temperance, and has directed it to gather information by means of sending approved questions to Sessions, it is earnestly hoped that every Session will recognize its duty in this matter, and carefully consider and answer, as fully and as accurately as possible the questions submitted.

Last year's returns furnished a large amount of valuable information regarding the changes that have taken place in the drinking customs and temperance sentiment of the country during the last twelve years, showing most encouraging progress in the right direction. Now, that we have this information, it is of importance to learn, as far as possible, what causes have, in different localities, brought about these changes, so that we may be able to find what means have been the most effective in producing the best results. Such information cannot but be helpful to the friends of Temperance and Prohibition in continuing this good work, and such information is sought.

Then it is desirable to learn the extent of the traffic in the different localities, the proportion of saloons to population, and whether or not the

illicit sale of liquors is decreasing. We also want to know what Sessions, all over the church, think of the influence of the saloon or dram shop on the general life of the community. Information is also asked on what is being done to secure the teaching of Temperance in public schools, and what have been the results of efforts made by congregations for overcoming the evils of intemperance and building up a sound temperance sentiment.

If all Sessions and Mission stations send in replies then the committee will be able to furnish the church with a summary of the opinions and knowledge, on those points asked, of all our ministers and our six thousand elders, living in all parts of the grand Dominion under a great variety of circumstances, and representing different phases of opinion. If the facts existing in any congregation or community, or the opinions held by any Session be not represented in the report, the fault must be with those who fail to send in returns. The aim of the committee is to make the report show, as fully as possible, the facts and opinions as presented in the returns of Sessions, and that this has been done, so far as my knowledge goes, an examination of all the reports of the last two years will clearly show.

I emphasize this matter here with the hope that if any have so far failed to send in their returns they may be stirred up by way of remembrance to give it immediate attention, for the time is short. If any Session or Mission station has not yet received a circular with questions, it will be furnished on application to the Convener of the Presbytery's Committee on Temperance, or to

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INCIDENTS OF FRENCH WORK.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

IN a graphic report of French mission work in St. Hyacinthe, Que., Mr. E. F. Seylan says:

We have met with very little real opposition, and any that has been offered has soon given way before the power of God's holy love.

Our people have all attended the services with an admirable regularity, always manifesting a sincere interest in them and in the cause of Christ generally. It is a source of joy to us, amid the many trials incident to missionary life to notice the interest they take in public worship.

One family said to me a few days ago: "We long for the Sabbath to come that we may get to church to be refreshed and comforted by the preaching of God's word. It is our greatest joy in life." This is a large family converted from Romanism a number of years ago, and there are many who express the same feeling. Such