

subject as exhibited in the standards of the church, and frequently inculcate a corresponding practice. Doubtless, great improvement can be made in this respect; but your committee cannot, at present, point to any alarming symptoms, nor report an increase of profaning practices.

As to present duty, your committee recommends that vigilance be exercised by pastors in reference to the evidently erroneous views lately developed in Presbyterian Scotland. Coming from such a land and church, they bring a recommendation, and are thus all the more likely to be adopted. The truth, and the whole truth, on Sabbath Observance, should be faithfully and frequently exhibited. In this manner the beginning of the evil may be nipped in the bud. Silence here on the part of ministers, may be construed by the people to mean indifference.

That which your committee has indicated as deplorable, forms one of the strongest arguments in favor of carrying out the recommendations contained in previous reports. Frequent reference to the subject in the pulpit, the diligent teaching and training of the young, and the vigilant, affectionate caring, in this particular, for all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers, ought to be felt as strongly enforced by the warning note which announces danger as almost at the door of the church.

But that the truly holy observance of the Lord's Day may be promoted, and made effectual as a means of grace, the whole church should prayerfully and actively seek an increase of the power of godliness.—When the christian deeply feels the preciousness of Christ, he will highly value the day of his risen Saviour. Let him heartily abhor all sin, and he will abstain from all appearance of evil in connection with the Sabbath. The more fully he possesses the spirit of Christ, the more scripturally will he employ the day as "made for man."—When the Spirit is poured out from on high, then will the people regard the day as the "holy of the Lord and honourable," and will keep it holy to the Lord.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ROBERT LAIRD, *Convener.*

Missionary intelligence from all quarters of the globe is of a cheering character.—Progress can be marked everywhere. The churches are sending forth more men; and the co-operation of converted natives is being extensively secured. The August number of the London Missionary Society's Chronicle gives an account of the sending forth of seven missionaries by that Society during the previous month.

## Missionary Intelligence.

### Missions in the Holy Land.

We condense the following from the correspondence of *Evangelical Christendom*:

#### PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN JERUSALEM.

Jerusalem must always hold a peculiar place in the heart of every Christian; but every one who has visited it has left with the sad conviction that few places in the world were so far from Christ as this city.

I first visited Jerusalem just ten years ago, and I can never forget the feelings of disappointment and sadness which then took possession of my heart, and gave me some faint impression of the feelings of Christ when He wept over the city, before his crucifixion. Half the population were fanatical Moslems, and I was more than once stoned by them in approaching the ground on which the Temple once stood. Most of the other half were mendicant Jews, who had come here to live upon charity, or to die in the Holy City. Of the christians who are represented in the church of the Holy Sepulchre, it was enough to see that they could be kept from destroying each other only by a squad of Turkish soldiers, who patrolled the church with fixed bayonets.

My second visit to the Mosque of Omar was made in peace and quietness, although I do not know that the general hatred of the Moslems for christianity has decreased here more than in other parts of Turkey.

The Jews have rather increased than diminished in numbers, and have erected a new and more splendid synagogue; but they are as poor, degraded, and filthy as ever. I visited both their synagogues on a Saturday, and their wailing-place on a Friday afternoon. At the latter I found a few old people and boys, whose wailing, with one or two exceptions, was evidently a farce, and whose figures would have formed a study for *Punch*. At the old synagogue I found, perhaps, a hundred persons, who were kissing the parchment roll on which the Law was inscribed, but the stench in the room was so great that, inured as I am to Eastern odours, I very nearly fainted.—At the new synagogue there were, perhaps, fifty persons, and the air was much purer; but I fancied there was still less of devotion than in the other.

Among the representatives of Protestant Christianity in Jerusalem I found a great change for the better. Many of the disturbing elements which existed ten years ago have been eliminated, and so far as I was able to judge, there was more of harmony and kindly Christian feeling among the different classes and nationali-