

such a response to their appeal, now these facts are known, that will render their diminution only temporary, but in justice to themselves they cannot continue to borrow in the face of a growing expenditure and decreasing income. Let this be understood, that for every dollar last year brought into our treasury we need one and a-half next year at least.

THIS may be the better place, though not in the order of its presentation to the Union, to refer to general statistics, as presented by our efficient statistical secretary, Mr. Wariner. The year presents an advance on last year of growth in our membership. In the Union of Ontario and Quebec there are fifty-two pastors in office, an average attendance of 15,000 on Sabbath services, and 22,000 reported as under the care of our churches. Over 800 have been received into fellowship on profession of faith, and a net gain of 414 reported in the seventy-two churches sending in returns. Our total membership now is 6,700. Of the 800 received into fellowship, 300 have come from our Sunday schools. These schools have an average attendance of nearly 6,000.

THE evening found a well filled church to listen to the addresses appointed for the annual public meeting of the Society. As on the previous evening, the choir of the Hamilton church did excellent service both in leading the congregation's singing and in rendering some very effective anthems. Mr. William Hastings some years ago settled in the Lower Provinces, but now pastor in London, England, and visiting this continent, was asked to address the meeting. He spoke of the Congregationalism of the Father Land, of its influence upon the destinies of the nations, paid an impassioned tribute to England's "Grand Old Man," spoke enthusiastically of the part taken by the Congregational churches in reaching the masses, and of the progress of total abstinence principles among both ministers and laymen.

REFERRING to intemperance and its ravages Mr. Hastings made a statement which may well be pondered in its dread significance. A number of working men belonging to his church had been detailed to take a census of the people visiting the public houses (taverns) in several London parishes between the hours of nine and twelve on a particular Saturday

evening. The number of public houses in the district assigned was 200. These 200 houses on that evening, during the three closing hours of the week, were entered by 86,000 people, of whom 19,000 were women, and 16,000 children. In some cases, without doubt, the woman or child was seeking a husband or father, to entice them home ere the last shilling was spent, but to think of an average of 430 entering every public house during hours that are emphatically home hours is something appalling.

MR. C. S. PEDLEY, B.A., of New Durham, was the next speaker. In his own quiet and original way, he urged that the Missionary Society was one of the organic bonds of our brotherhood, and, while deprecating a faith without a backbone, maintained that the Society should boldly take its stand upon the broad ground of faith in Christ as a personal and effective Saviour. This faith should give a bond of brotherhood strong and true, which leaving conscience free, will prove powerful in meeting the wants of men.

DR. STEVENSON was in his happiest vein, and gave one of those incisive and humorous, yet withal eminently practical addresses, which it is simply impossible to report. He spoke of true liberty as manifested by right living and the doing of good; denounced the headstrong will of those who needlessly divided the Church, and urged confidence in the holy catholic gospel of the Congregational faith, maintaining that it was a part of our mission to inculcate love and mutual forbearance. The meeting was full of spirit and of power.

AFTER the hour spent in devotional exercises the Union came again to order on Friday morning, and spent the greater part of its sederunt energetically discussing the Senate's amendments (? evisceration) of the Canada Temperance Act. The subject was formally brought before the Union by Mr. H. J. Clark, in the following resolution:

That this Union, composed of representatives ministerial and lay, of the Congregational churches of Ontario and Quebec has heard with deep regret of the amendments introduced into the Scott Act by the Senate of the Dominion. This Union respectfully petitions the House of Commons not to concur in these amendments, as they involve a serious breach of faith with those constituencies which have voted