

turns that three of the reporting Congregations observe it once a year, thirty-one twice, five three times, and six four times a year. One or two intimate their intention—that is, of those who have been in the habit of observing this ordinance, only once or twice in the year—of doing so hereafter more frequently.

Very little in the way of complaint has been expressed in regard to children over the age of two years growing up unbaptised, except in the case of one Minister who speaks of 150 children in this condition in his Congregation, and states that the chief cause is carelessness on the part of the parents and the prevalence of Baptist views. It is different with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It would appear from these sheets that fully one-half of the adult population of the Church—that is, those over eighteen years of age—stand aloof from this holy ordinance, and are living unpledged to a Christian life. The proportions range from one-twelfth to three-fourths of those of ripe years that are living in this state, and though the returns as a whole are not so definite on this point as could be desired, yet the Committee believe that they are not far from the truth when they say that fully one-half of the adult population of our Church decline entering into its Communion or to take Christian ground! This sad fact, which was adverted to last year, is far more clearly brought out in the sheets this year, and the conclusion which is forced upon the Committee is that the Church, notwithstanding all her efforts and organizations—Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes—is failing, at least to the extent named, to gather in her young men and women into the fold of Christ, or even to attach them to herself by any strong and enduring bond. On every hand and in every Congregation there are scores growing up to manhood and rushing into life's solemn responsibilities without, it would seem, a single thought of consecrating themselves to God, and all over the Church there are heads of families—fathers and mothers that have grown grey under the preaching of the Word, or within easy access of the sanctuary—that have not yet taken the first step towards that higher life of faith to which they are called. One Minister in a rural section of the country, without giving the proportion, states that 248 persons of adult years are living in this state. Among the causes assigned for this deplorable state of things are the love of the present world—the dislike of being under the obligations involved—the high style of fencing the tables, common in some places, and the air of mystery and awe which has been thrown around the ordinance—the inconsistencies of some of those who have made a profession of their faith and the feeling that it is better not to vow, than to vow and fail to perform—and above all—"unfitness"—a sense of unworthiness restrains. This last is by far the most frequent excuse that is offered for neglecting the command of our Lord: *This do in remembrance of me.*

The Committee have received no hint or suggestion from any Minister as to how the great evil under consideration is to be met and they themselves have none to offer, save perhaps that of a more careful and individual treatment of those coming into mature years. The period of youth, it is well known—the period intervening between the time they leave the Sabbath School or Bible Class and that of the age stated in these sheets—is a very dangerous one—one of companionships and strange questionings, when the fountains of thought are stirred and black doubt casts its shadow over all the teachings of the Sabbath School and the traditions of the family—when passion pleads for indulgence, and the restraints of home are felt to be irksome, and the boast and bravado of impudence or irreverence is apt to be mistaken for manliness. It is a transition time in which the man is