

The great corrective to these evils is the truth of Christ faithfully presented in the pulpit and in the pastoral visits of our ministers and elders, circulated in tracts and other religious publications broadcast through the community, and, though last not least, illustrated and enforced by the unanswerable argument of consistent Christ-like life among ordinary members as well as office-bearers of the Church. More of this is what we especially need. For this let us lift up Christ, and, with much searching of heart, invite the Spirit's power. Of revival within the Church, and conquests among the careless without, the reports do not mention anything very prominent or extended this year. Much blessing has been quietly enjoyed by a large number of our congregations. Faithful pastors have continued to sow the seed diligently and to water it, often with tears, and God has not failed to give the increase. There is amongst us much of the spirit and experience expressed by one session as follows: "If increased attendance upon the means of Grace, and a large accession to the membership of the Church are evidences of a revival, then we have had it. But if anything of a sensational or exciting character is sought, then we had none." The sentiment is so far healthy and commendable. But if meant to exalt quietude as everything, and pass unqualified reflection on all excitement in religious life and work it would be erroneous and unwise. Equally sound are the sentiments of two Presbyterian reports, which say: "Let our ministers, elders and members generally seek to be revived themselves. Let all look for greater results from the ordinary means of grace, and let God's people realize that the normal state of the Church of Christ should be a state of revival." "Let the ordinary means be used, as often as possible, with extraordinary diligence and urgency and there will be more of revival." This remark is borne out by the cheering testimony given us of seasons of awakening and spiritual power being vouchsafed in a goodly number of congregations and communities. In the Presbyteries of Glen-garry, Brockville, Halifax, Prince Edward Island, Whitby, Toronto and others, special evangelistic services have been held with more or less marked results. It must be a cause of gladness to all who love the Gospel and Kingdom of our Lord to see the soldiers of Christ, in response to a sound of a going in the tops of the trees, arise and gird themselves for battle, while the associates of the closet besiege the throne of grace with even more than wonted intensity, to hear the shoutings of victory. These things give joy in the church below, as they do in presence of the angels above. Let us remember for our instruction that it was, "So soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth children." "Prove me now herewith saith the Lord, &c." While recog-

nizing with much satisfaction and gratitude to God, the large measure of life and zeal and progress prevailing throughout the church, we may in closing give place to the words of one of the reports:—"Of revival few, indeed scarce any, noteworthy evidences are mentioned among us; and what is also to be regretted, few expressions of any great concern for its absence now, or desire and hope for the future. The Assembly's question on this point suggests a responsibility on our part, which we would do well as office-bearers in the Church of Christ solemnly to ponder. Do we appreciate the importance of revival as one of the most precious of covenant promises to the Church of the latter day? What are we doing, or what are we leaving undone that we ought to do, to gain the blessing? Or what are we doing, it may be of equal importance to ask, to hinder its advent among us? Let us earnestly seek from God greater faithfulness to the trust committed to us, greater wisdom in planning, and zeal in executing whatever He may prompt us to undertake for the furtherance of his cause."

In conclusion, your Committee would state their belief that the interest taken in the subject of the condition and the advancement of religious life and work among us is on the increase. The recommendations of the Assembly on the subject are receiving much attention, with good results. In many cases the subject is brought before the people from the pulpit by reading the questions issued by the Assembly and the reports prepared by the session, or the Presbytery. In some cases these are printed for circulation. Altogether the year's report contains, with much to deplore, a great deal to cause us to "thank God and take courage." "He hath not been unmindful of us, and He will bless us yet more and more." With the hope of furthering this we submit the following

RECOMMENDATIONS:—I. That a pastoral letter on the subject of Family Religion and of the Congregational Prayer Meetings be issued by the Moderator of this Assembly, to be read by all Ministers and Missionaries to their congregations upon the first Sabbath of October, or such time as may be deemed most suitable.

II. That the same day be observed as a day of humiliation before God, confession of past shortcomings and united prayer for the revival of his work among us, and to this end, for an abundant baptism of the Holy Ghost upon Ministers and people alike.

III. That ministers and elders be enjoined to deal faithfully and kindly with heads of families neglecting the important duties of family religion.

IV. That instruction be given to the Committee on the State of Religion (to be hereafter appointed) to take into consideration and