

on the "Life and Work" of the whole Church.

But the best laid schemes, etc. Thus it happened on the evening set apart for this Report. The close of Assembly was nearing. Dr. Robertson had just arrived. Every one wished to hear of his work in the old land, and the evening's programme was regretfully set aside. We give some extracts from the Report.

"There are now fifty Home Presbyteries, and from forty-eight of these reports have been received. These reports have all been carefully prepared, and some of them are very elaborate.

Last year the number of Sessions responding to Assembly's circular was reported as very gratifying, about eighty per cent of the organized Sessions having made returns. This year the proportion can hardly be less than ninety per cent.

In several Presbyteries, such as Whitby, Guelph, Brandon, Glenboro and Portage la Prairie, all the Sessions have responded. In Inverness, Paris, Maitland, Rock Lake, Calgary and Victoria only one Session in each has failed. In Pictou, Kingston, Sarnia, Minnedosa, and Edmonton, three in each have failed, and in London four. In many other reports where numbers are not stated, great satisfaction is expressed, as in Montreal, Owen Sound, Barrie, Hamilton, Huron, and several others.

In a few Presbyteries, however, the language of complaint is employed, which seems to attain its maximum emphasis in the reports for Wallace, Ottawa, and Algonia.

The improvement in this respect is encouraging, and leaves the impression that our Sessions are becoming more deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of the people, as that is exhibited in devout lives, consistent conduct, and growing liberality."

#### ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH.

What the report says upon some other subjects will be given later. Its statements regarding attendance on the Sabbath services and the prayer meeting will furnish food for one month's thought. They are as follows:—

"Great unanimity characterizes the reports in this important particular. As regards this manifestation of Church Life there is

everything that is hopeful and heartening. And surely we employ a legitimate method of measurement when we apply the reed of the sanctuary. Christian life, wherever it exists, will find some way of embodying itself in visible form. Life of any kind will make its presence felt and known. The joyous lark springs upward to vent her gladness in her morning song. Even the life that circulated in the stem and branches of the tree reveals itself in the opening buds, expanding blossoms, and the ripened fruit. And surely the highest life of all that thrills the bosom of Christian men and women, will in some way assert its presence and reveal its power.

A conscientious attendance on the public worship of God is one of the most hopeful signs of the spiritual life of a community. It is a duty which Christian people owe to themselves, their minister, their fellow-members, and to the Lord who bought them. It is also a delightful privilege, and when deprived of it for a time by distance, sickness, or old age, there are few things for which Christians more ardently long than to see God's "power and glory as they have seen them in the sanctuary." Nor is there a more certain sign of spiritual decay in a church than when the members "forsake the assembling of themselves together."

Hence there is much to evoke our heartfelt gratitude to God in the uniform testimony of our Presbyteries that our people love the gates of Zion, and, in increasing numbers, throng her courts. Truro says, "Attendance on Sabbath services is well sustained and encouraging, both as to numbers and interest. In no case is any decline noticed, while in some there has been gratifying increase." Pictou, "The great majority of our people love the gates of Zion, and their seats in the house of God are never empty except for a good and sufficient reason." Brockville says that, "judged by this test, religion is not losing its grip upon the masses. Increasing attendance and deepening interest bespeak a love for the habitation of God's House." Quebec, "Not a murmur as to attendance or attention." Kingston reports that there is "everything that is gratifying," in respect to Sabbath attendance. Guelph speaks of "great unanimity in regard to a grow-