

them, and this we may do to some extent by noticing christian effort in this department of work in other churches.

First of all we have before us the Annual Report of the Committee of the General Assembly of the Free Church on this subject, and the speeches of William Kidston, Esq., Ferniegair, the Earl of Dalhousie, Dr. Begg, J. Cowan, Esq., Professor Blaikie, D. D., Rev. Sir Henry Moncrieff, Rev. Dr. Nelson of Greenock, and Rev. Messrs. Bain Garroch, Henderson of Crieff, and Gibson of Kirkaldy.

The Report took up the evils and causes of Intemperance, means of lessening the evil, legislation and the duty of the Church, and took strong ground on the duty both of the State and the Church to deal with this great evil earnestly, promptly and decidedly. Mr. Kidston spoke at great length and with great earnestness, his facts well chosen and reasonings conclusive. He was followed by the speakers named, in addresses of varied character, and all remarkable for power, until 12 o'clock (midnight) when this deliverance was agreed to :

"That the General Assembly approve of the Report, and record their thanks to the Committee especially to the Convener (Mr. Kidston). The Assembly is deeply impressed with the alarming prevalence of the sin of drunkenness and the enormous evils which flow from it, as well as of the duty of employing all lawful and scriptural means for the purpose of arresting so mighty an evil. The Assembly strongly recommends all Synods and Presbyteries to appoint Special Committees to deal with this matter within their bounds, and they appoint all the ministers of this Church, in addition to suitable references to this subject in their ordinary ministrations to preach a special sermon on the subject on the third Sabbath of December." The last part of the resolution is recommending measures to abolish feeing markets for servants, which have proved fruitful nurseries of intemperance and vice.

The Report of the Committee of the General Assembly of Ireland noted signs of the steady progress of the Temperance Reformation, the preaching of an annual

sermon in nearly every pulpit of the body on the last Sabbath of November, the enrollment of a good proportion of the Theological Students as Total Abstainers, efforts, not effective as yet, for the closing of Public Houses on the Lord's Day, agitation for the Permissive Bill, and while regretting the loss of the Government Licensing Bill, introduced by Mr. Bruce the Home Secretary, considered its introduction and the able and bold speech of Mr. Bruce in the House of Commons, important steps in advance.

A noteworthy stand against Intemperance is that taken by the Lower House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury. A Committee of this body has accumulated and published a Book of 192 pages, filled with information respecting the extent of the evil, its probable causes, such as legislative enactments or the absence of these, social or trade usages, supposed medical properties; the consequence of intemperate habits, as affecting morality, domestic happiness, education of working classes, health, crime, pauperism, lunacy, Lord's Day, and finally remedies suggested.

This information has been drawn out by questions addressed to clergymen and nearly all public functionaries likely to throw light on the subject. True, this issue from the press is over a year old. But we have but recently seen it; and we note it because we believe its facts must tell on the public mind.

We would also notice activity in carrying on the Temperance war in our own province. Among other movements in connection with the Sons of Temperance, a prize will be awarded for the best Essay on "The importance of combined efforts in the cause of Total Abstinence from the use of intoxicating beverages, on the part of the clergy of all denominations, and religious public generally, and the responsibility that rests upon them in connection with that cause."

The British Templars increasing in numbers and influence, are moving for Union with the Free Templars of Britain a body to the working energy of which ample evidence was borne by the Speakers in the Free Assembly.