

1884. they entered into the performance of this duty with an earnest spirit and a strong desire to perform their share in effecting this much needed reform.

Organized work throughout our borders has not been as general as might have been expected or desired. Of the sixteen Monthly Meetings, only five have had organized committees at work, although many members of our Committee throughout our limits have accomplished much individual work in distributing Temperance literature, and in assisting other Temperance organizations in procuring and enforcing local prohibition laws. The benefits which have followed local prohibition, wherever tried, are so evident, that much effort has been made to extend its influence over more territory and to enforce the law, where it already exists. To this end, counsel has been employed, when necessary, and personal as well as pecuniary aid given to the Maryland State Temperance Alliance. Congress and the Maryland Legislature have been memorialized on the different phases of the Temperance question with results which show an advance in the minds of the people generally. An attempt to get a law passed, introducing Temperance text books into the Public Schools of Maryland, was successful in the Senate, but the bill was defeated in the House by a small majority. Not only within the limits of our own Society, but in other fields, where opportunities have been found, have efforts been made to instruct the people. Addresses have been delivered, essays written and recitations given, as well as the best published thought on this subject put into the hands of many readers. The distribution of Temperance literature, we deem an effective means of education, and the committee recognizing this fact, has placed nearly 50,000 printed pages of reading matter in the hands of children and adults, and amongst the latter were many of those engaged in the liquor traffic. An especial effort has been made during the past year to interest the colored people in the Temperance cause. Meetings have been held in their churches and

1884. Sabbath Schools, at which they were addressed by members of the Committee, being encouraged from Temperance Societies among themselves and our support and aid promised them. A new feature this year, has been the holding of conferences on Temperance, members of two or more Monthly Meetings being present. Both of these conferences were well attended. One was held at Cambria, Md, within the limits of Nottingham Quarterly Meeting, and another was held at Goose Creek Meeting House in Virginia, in the 8th month last. At Goose Creek the following questions were ably discussed.

1st, What is the best means of teaching Temperance in our Schools?

2nd, What is the duty of the Christian Church, and especially of our Society in regard to Temperance.

We regret that our efforts in this behalf have been attended with less beneficial result, than otherwise might have been the case had our own memberships been clear of the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is most earnestly desired by our committee that this blot upon the fair name of our Society, may at no distant day be removed, by those of our members engaged in that branch of business relinquishing it, thus strengthening our Religious Society in its testimony against intoxicants, and severing our connection with a traffic, that is said to ruin from six to nine hundred thousand immortal beings annually, and Holy writ has declared that "no drunkard can inherit eternal life". Of the two hundred dollars appropriated for the use of the committee, one hundred and seventy dollars and ninety eight cents have been expended.

We hope the Yearly Meeting will continue its labors in this righteous cause, and suggests that a sum not less than two hundred dollars be appropriated for the use of the committee, should one be appointed, and we would also suggest that the Post Office address of each member of the committee be published in the Extracts of the Yearly Meeting, in order that communication