

MISSION OF FERGUS.

In connection with the accompanying document, I beg to observe that Sunday schools are very inadequate instruments for the Christian training of youth. They are in themselves improper, as being a violation of the Lord's Day, and are rendered necessary only by the unhappy bondage of this country to a system of secular instruction based on Deism, and imbued with the poison of infidelity. Till the time comes when the people shall be delivered out of this thralldóm, Sunday schools must be tolerated, and worked as well as circumstances will permit. It is impossible, in one hour of one day, to counteract the evil which is done during six hours of five days in the week.

The mischief is not so apparent now as it will be a few years hence ; but even now it is beginning to be felt in the increasing ignorance of the young upon religious matters, as is evinced by the difficulty of finding properly instructed candidates for confirmation. It should not be the clergyman's business to teach the catechism, and even the commandments, *de novo* to such persons, as he often is obliged to do.

Almost the whole education of the country, such as it is, both secular and religious, is in the hands of three bodies—the Romanists, the Free Kirk Presbyterians, and the Methodists. If the laity of the Church are content that this should be so, it must be so. But it is little use to send circulars to stir up the clergy, whose strength is already overtaxed with their proper work, while the laity, many of them, not only do nothing to advance the Church's educational work, but even *support a system hostile to the Church*, and able, by the aid of money extorted from churchmen by a majority of dissenters, to paralyze all their efforts for the good of the Church's children.

The morals and manners of the young, who are now being trained in our public schools under a system said to be based on morality and Christianity, are simply a disgrace to any civilized country.

It is preposterous to expect that this state of things is to be remedied by calling upon the clergy, in addition to three, or even