

down the stream of time to the latest generations. This was their high ambition, and their not unsuccessful aim. How solid that education was intended to be, and to a great extent actually was; and how duly it was blended with the leaven of the truth as it is in Jesus—which was meant to sanctify it for the highest good to individuals, and thus render it truly conducive to the stability of the best interests of the nation—we may gather from what history has told us of its actual accomplishment, notwithstanding a somewhat stinted provision for its support. Still, for ages the Parish Schools of Scotland sent forth her Sons fitly furnished for the successful prosecution of the duties of almost any calling in any of the walks of life.

That increased facilities were not afforded, and extended means were not provided, for the greater requirements of an expanding population in after times, is not the fault of those who founded the Scottish Parochial system, nor can it properly be regarded as a reproach to those who have since administered it with the slender means at their command; and now the mixed character of the community there renders the task of extending the system, to meet the increased wants of the times, more difficult—perhaps impossible of realization to the extent required by the existing necessities of the case. Still the Educational Institute which was engrafted, at the outset, on the Church of Scotland at the period of the Reformation, will ever stand, on the page of history, as a noble monument to the enlightened zeal of the founders of the Church—an honor we may not be able fully to appreciate, when we regard it