

The salvation of souls is ultimately God's work, but we are honored in being fellow-workers with God in this great concern. We sincerely congratulate the Presbytery of Halifax, and the people of Musquodoboit and Truro, in having obtained the services of such a diligent, efficient, and consequently acceptable missionary, as this report shows Mr. Stewart to be.

FEMALE ASSOCIATION, ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NEW GLASGOW.

Female believers *ought* not to remain undistinguished among those who serve the Redeemer. They owe more to the Christian religion, in a social point of view, than the male portion of the Christian world. The benign spirit and loving precepts of the Gospel, which is the beauty of holiness, must commend it to the intellect and feelings of women, formed as they are to develop their energies and determine the direction of their lives under the influence of pure love. The very fundamental law of the Gospel is in a special manner the fundamental law under which woman accomplishes the noblest achievements of moral heroism, and creates her sphere of duty. And when we consider the influence exerted by females upon the other sex, who are made of sterner stuff for the coarse scuffles of human life, the impossibility of high civilization without it, and the fact that all mankind are consigned over to a mother's training, and a mother's insinuating tenderness, at a period of life, when its lessons are never forgotten, and its impressions are indelible, it must be admitted that while the religion of Jesus Christ has much that recommends it to females, they have much in their natures that makes them important auxiliaries, whom its advocates ought to enlist in their cause.

These principles of a general bearing are illustrated in many examples in Biblical history. In the Old Testament narratives appear shining instances of their tact and devoted zeal. When the word was proclaimed among the Gentiles, devout and honorable women came forward and confessed Christ. Dorcas immortalized her name by the employment of her time, not in the advocacy of woman's rights, but in tender and matronly provision for the wants of the comfortless poor. And, as on the day of crucifixion a group of females sympathized with the Divine sufferer, so now when Christ is crucified afresh by the coldness, deadness and worldliness of professedly Christian communities, there is often a small band of pious females, who strengthen the hands of the office-bearers of the Church, prevent God's judgements, and besiege heaven with prayers for a blessing upon ordinances.

We have been led to these reflections by the reports of Female Associations in connection with our Church, which have appeared from time to time in this periodical, and by a note handed to us by the Secretary of the La-

dies' Association of St. Andrew's Church, New Glasgow. This Society has been in existence for three years, and has raised sums averaging each year twenty pounds. The chief object of the Association is benevolent, but hitherto the principal part of its funds has been devoted to the improvement of the Church, and the increase of comfort for the worshippers. Through the taste and liberality of the ladies, a very beautiful marble font, costing £30, has been placed in front of the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church—a praiseworthy act, as showing their enlightened view, that one sacrament is as holy and important as the other, and that, if large sums are expended upon communion services, gifts of equal amount and generosity should not be grudged for the solemn performance of the great initiatory rite of Christianity. The members of this Association have also contributed £20 of the very handsome sum of £120 expended upon the purchase of a fine bell—an article important, where regularity and decorum are valued among the worshippers of God on the Sabbath day.

We feel bound to mention, with special thanks and admiration, the liberality of a gentleman in Toronto, of the Wesleyan persuasion, in connection with the bell. As it was thought that there might be some difficulty in raising the required amount, Miss Annie Fraser, the Secretary, applied to Mr. John Macdonald for a little aid. This gentleman, with an unsectarian liberality, for which all who know him give him credit, sent ten pounds. Our friends ought to know, for we are assured that they shall highly appreciate such a gift from a permanent member of another Church, conspicuous among the Churches for system and liberality.

The income of this Association has been, during the past year, £16 10s. 4½d.

OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH AT WEST BRANCH EAST RIVER.

This elegant and substantial building must be added to the long and laudable catalogue of our new churches. The two ancient churches in which the Rev. John Macrae officiated for a long period, are on the point of disappearing. That on the *East Branch* was supplanted by a noble edifice, opened by his son, the Rev. Donald MacRae, much regretted by his people here, before he left for a new sphere, which he fills with credit and efficiency. On the last Sabbath in November the new church at the *West Branch* was opened by the Rev. Dr. McGillivray officiating in the forenoon, and the Rev. Allan Pollok in the afternoon. The Rev. Alexander Mackay preached on Monday. All the pews were sold on that day, with the exception of thirteen, and realised £1580—the largest sum yet obtained by any of our congregations on a similar occasion. A great many of the pews were sold wonderfully high, showing by their