

but too surely indicated by the course of legislative measures recently attempted, but for the present happily frustrated, the main element of religion is to be ignored or even inadequately provided for in a national education for the youth of Scotland, what a strong appeal must this be to the renewed energy of the Church, in endeavouring to mitigate such an evil by a more plentiful supply of the pure waters of life, to those who are still unsullied by habits of worldliness and vice?

We regret to say that the income of the Scheme for the past year has fallen short of its expenditure—a state of matters which can scarcely fail to be deeply felt by every friend of religious education. The total income amounted to £7671, 16s. 3d., and beyond this amount there has been expended a sum of £176, 2s. 6d. A greater number of parishes have indeed contributed for the year, but from no less than 129 parishes no aid has been received. This is to be deplored when we consider that, in place of meeting existing deficiencies by extending the operations of the Scheme, it may be necessary even to lessen the number of the schools already receiving support. We are sure the contemplation of such a fact must be in itself a more powerful appeal than any which can be made on behalf of this Mission; we will only add that it has peculiar claims upon us at such a time as the present, since no small part of its work is to convey the blessings of instruction to the children of the brave and gallant Highlanders, who are at this moment fighting the battles of their country, and crowning their arms with a well-earned glory.

Although the Education Scheme may be regarded as a most interesting and efficient means of promoting religion throughout the land, the Church has devoted to this end a Scheme of no less importance, and of wider interest, which especially receives the name of her.

HOME MISSION.

It is often truly said, that the darkest pictures of heathenism may be found among the masses of our own countrymen, who are groping in blindness amid the light of Christian truth; and since it is so, surely this is a loud call to our brotherly love. Indeed, both in a social and religious aspect, it is fraught with the most impressive appeals. While we cannot hope that the man who is ignorant and careless of the true principle of moral action—the love of Christ—will be restrained from vice and crime by any mere human laws, we are inspired by higher motives—a regard for the salvation of souls—to wipe away from a Christian country the reproach of her beauteous children. It is the object of the present Mission to attempt this, by supplying the means and ordinances of grace to all who stand in need of them. We need scarcely say that a wide moral and religious waste is thus opened up for the operations of the Scheme—a field which the limited resources of the Mission

only enable it to occupy in part. So far as its capabilities have permitted, the Scheme has been hitherto highly successful. But without any review of what it has already had the privilege of accomplishing, we may state that in regard to its branch of *Church extension*, three applications have been made during the past year. Only one of these applications—that of Lochgelly in the parish of Auchterderran—has been as yet disposed of. The grant made was £251, 5s., the erection of the church being in the centre of a large district covered with a mining population. The other applications are under consideration.

The principal part of the funds of the Mission is expended in aiding unendowed churches, and in employing probationers as missionaries. At present there are in all 98 places of worship receiving aid out of the funds to the amount of about £4250.

During the past year, two chapels—Edgerston in the parish of Jedburgh, and Springburn in the Barony parish of Glasgow—have been erected into parish churches, and they consequently require no further assistance from the Scheme. Encouraging instances have also occurred of the increase of numbers in congregations and among communicants.

Three applications were made and sustained during last year, under the branch of encouragement to promising young men.

We have already stated that the operations of the Scheme are only limited by its resources; and we regret to add, that during the past year the ordinary revenue has been less than that of the previous year by upwards of £800, while of that deficiency the larger portion—fully £500—arises from a decrease in the amount of church-door collections. The falling off in the contributions for this as well as other schemes, is only too satisfactorily to be accounted for, by the numerous appeals to Christian charity which have otherwise been made during the past year. We sincerely trust that the important objects of the Home Mission will still maintain for it, a deserving prominence in the affections and sympathies of the Church at large.

We are happy to state that yet another medium is afforded, for the efforts of the Church towards the evangelization of our brethren at home. Her desire is to impart to others, and especially to the dense populations of our large towns and cities, the advantages of her own privileges and ordinances. Although nominally included in parishes, no existing parochial ministrations are sufficient of themselves to supply the blessings of Christian instruction, and aid to the thousands congregated in a single district; and when it is recollected that no less than one-sixth of the population of Scotland—nearly half-a-million of immortal beings—are in no way connected with a Christian Church, we cannot surely be satisfied to stand idly by. Such urgent wants the Church endeavours in some measure to meet by means of her

ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the good which this Scheme has already accomplished. No less than 25 chapels have been erected into parishes through its aid. For 19 the requisite endowments have been secured, and for other 26 endowments, have been partially obtained. The subscriptions for 7 of these endowments and for 3 of the partial endowments were obtained during the past year. But the scheme of provincial subscriptions, by which it is proposed to endow no less than 100 chapels in various districts of the country, has chiefly occupied attention. While we meet with satisfactory argumentative refutations of critical objections to the plan, it seems the best argument of all in its favor, that subscriptions have been received for carrying it out, to the amount of £9600 during the past year.

In regard to the whole operations of the scheme, it is pleasing to observe the large amount of benefaction which it has called forth from the noblemen and gentlemen of the land, while the congregational contributions, which for the last year were somewhat increased, have also been well calculated to inspire the Church with vigour in the prosecution of the scheme. The gross amount of subscriptions made, is £194,201, 8s. 8d., of which no less than £28,203, 13s. has been subscribed during the past year. It is worthy of notice, that by the munificence of his Grace, the Duke of Hamilton, another new parish is on the eve of being erected. While such facts afford much reason for congratulation, when we consider the important objects which the scheme has undertaken, and how much still requires to be done in the vast field which it has opened up, we hope that its past history will be but an incentive to further progress.

To be Concluded.

Endowment Scheme.

(APPEAL FROM THE CONVENER.)

It was in these words of deepest anguish that the Apostle of the Gentiles commiserated the condition of his unbelieving countrymen: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Not however, as thinking that his ministry was to be directed to these exclusively; for he says in another place, "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The Church of Scotland holds the same commission that was given to the apostles of the Lord. That commission was, to preach the Gospel to every creature—repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations—beginning at Jerusalem. The commission which the apostles received, they fulfilled