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"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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## POETRY.

### NATIONAL EDUCATION.

O for the coming of that glorious time,  
 When, prizing knowledge as her noblest wealth  
 And best protection, this imperial realm,  
 While she exacts allegiance, shall admit  
 An obligation, on her part, to teach  
 Those who are poor to serve her and obey;  
 Binding herself by statute, to secure  
 For all the children whom her soil maintains  
 The rudiments of letters, and inform  
 The mind with moral and religious truth,  
 Both understood and practised—so that none,  
 However destitute, be left to droop  
 By timely culture unstaid; or run  
 Into a wild disorder; or be forced  
 To drudge through a weary life without the help  
 Of intellectual implements and tools;  
 A savage horde among the civilised,  
 A servile band among the lofty free!  
 The sacred right, the lisping babe proclaims  
 To be inherent in him by Heaven's will,  
 For the protection of his innocence;  
 And the rude boy, who, having overpast  
 The sinless age, by conscience is enrolled,  
 Yet mutinously knits his angry brow,  
 And lifts his willful hand on mischief bent,  
 Or turns the god-like faculty of speech  
 To impious use—by process indirect  
 Declares his due, while he makes known his need.  
 This sacred right is fruitlessly announced,  
 This universal plea in vain addressed,  
 To eyes and ears of parents, who themselves  
 Did, in the time of their necessity,  
 Urge it in vain; and, therefore, like a prayer  
 That from the humblest floor ascends to heaven,  
 It mounts to reach the State's parental ear;  
 Who, if indeed she own a mother's heart,  
 And be not most unfeelingly devoid  
 Of gratitude to Providence, will grant  
 The unquestionable good—which England, safe  
 From interference of external force,  
 May grant at leisure; without risk incurred  
 That what in wisdom for herself she doth,  
 Others shall e'er be able to undo.

Wordsworth's Excursion.

## Statistical Information.

### STATISTICS OF THE SECESSION CHURCH.

The season is at hand when the statistical returns are to be called for, by the collectors in the different Presbyteries, and we publish the queries sent down to every minister and session, both to remind these parties of their duty, and to apprise the church generally of the nature of the enquiry. The importance of statistics is now on all hands admitted. Without them we have no proper gauge by which to measure our growth or decline,—to form an estimate of the comparative exertions of congregations, or the amount of pastoral labours,—or even to ascertain the numbers under our care, or the extent of our church accommodation. It is matter of astonishment that, while attention has for many years been given to this subject by the different denominations of dissenters in England, the Methodists, the Congregationalists, the Baptists, &c. some of them vastly more numerous than our own body, and all of them with an ecclesiastical organization, greatly inferior to ours for the prosecution of such enquiries, it is only within the last three years that it has engaged the consideration of the Synod. The queries in the present schedule are numerous, but they are all highly appropriate, and generally very important, and in our opinion all such as may be easily answered by every minister, and body of managers who are doing their duty.—The answers to those under the section of church accommodation, contributions, and expenditure, are not only such as every body of managers should be annually prepared to furnish, but such as we think it would be well for every congregation, to require annually to be laid before them, there being few cases more productive of pecuniary embarrassment and confusion in congregations, than keeping the people ignorant of such details as are here specified; an error which all faithful and diligent managers should carefully avoid. Again, a thorough knowledge of the numbers and circumstances of all the persons committed to his care, is so obviously requisite to a faithful pastor, that it may be presumed to be generally possessed by the ministers of the Secession, and

where wanting, should be deemed worthy of all the labour necessary to its attainment. No minister who possesses it, will find difficulty in answering all the questions under the second and six following sections. In fact, the materials from which an accurate answer to the fourth query of the second section may be supplied, will enable a person to answer all the other queries in that section. It is cause at once of regret and humiliation to the Secession Church, that the former experiment did not meet with better success. But instead of repining at the past, let every endeavour be made to render the approaching Return complete. The circumstances in which the church is at present placed impart great additional importance and urgency to this enquiry. Facts are often of more account with statesmen than arguments, and we should be prepared, in so far as the production of them may be of service, to do justice to our own cause. Accurate evidence of the numbers belonging to the Secession Church, and of the amount of church accommodation furnished by it, would be of invaluable consequence at present in pressing our claims upon the government and the legislature.

Schedule of the Statistical Information to be Furnished Annually to the United Associate Synod, by the Congregations under their Inspection.

#### 1. Church Accommodation.

1. WHAT is the exact number of seats which your place of worship contains?
2. How many of these are let?
3. How many are appropriated to Minister's family the Session, &c.?
4. How many are granted gratuitously to poor members, and others?
5. How many are unoccupied?
6. What is the lowest yearly rate charged for any seat?
7. What is the highest yearly rate charged for any seat?
8. What is the average price of seats?
9. What is the ordinary attendance on the Lord's Day?

#### 2. Population.

1. What is the number of Communicants on the roll?
2. What is the number of the children of Communicants, under 12 years of age?
3. What is the number of adherents, comprehending in this class, children above 12 years of age, as well as seat-holders, and other hearers, not in communion, who ordinarily attend the ministrations of the gospel in your Congregation?
4. What is the total number of population belonging to, or connected with the Congregation, at the date of this return, including Children of all ages?
5. What is the number of families connected with the Congregation?
6. What is the number of single individuals connected with it, and not included in the return of families?
7. What is the number of Elders in the Congregation?
8. In how many parishes does the population belonging to your Congregation reside?

#### 3. Public Worship and Pastoral Visitation.

1. How many times does your Congregation meet for worship, and how many discourses are ordinarily preached to them on the Lord's Day?
2. What is the number of other stated times in the course of the year, on which the Congregation assemble for public worship and instruction,—as days of humiliation, monthly sermons, &c.?
3. How many occasional opportunities of public worship and instruction, in addition to the above, have been afforded by the minister, to members of the Congregation and others, in the course of the year, at village preaching, baptisms, &c.?
4. How many times has the Lord's Supper been dispensed, in the Congregation, in the course of the year?
5. What number of days in the year are devoted to pastoral visitation, including diets of examination, and the visitation of the sick? Specify along with the answer, how many hours are on an average reckoned a day.

#### 4. Prayer Meetings.

1. What is the number of prayer meetings in the Congregation, distinguishing public and private?
2. How many of these are weekly?
3. How many persons are in the habit of attending these meetings?

#### 5. Baptisms.

1. What is the total number of baptisms during the year?
2. How many of these are adults, who have received it on a personal profession of faith?

#### 6. Accessions.

1. What is the total number of accessions to the communion roll in the course of the year?
2. How many of these were admitted on personal examination, and were not previously in communion with any church?
- How many were admitted on regular certificates from other Congregations of this church?
- How many were admitted on examination from other churches?

#### 7. Disjunctions.

1. What number of communicants have, in the course of the year, been removed by death?
2. What number have removed to other Congregations, with regular certificates of membership?
3. What number have been removed by discipline?
4. What number have otherwise left the Congregation, or not accounted for?
5. What is the total number taken from the communion roll during the year?

#### 8. Schools, Libraries and Missions.

1. What is the number of Sabbath schools in connexion with the Congregation?
2. What is the number of classes for religious instruction, distinct from the preceding?
3. What is the total number of young persons who attend these seminaries?
4. If there be any day schools, state the particulars regarding them.
5. Are there any libraries belonging to the Congregation, and what number of volumes do they contain?
6. Where Missionaries or Catechists are supported by the Congregation, and where there is a Christian Instruction Society in connexion with it, state the particulars respecting these objects.

#### 9. Contributions.

1. What is the total amount derived during the year from seat rents?
2. What is the total amount derived from ordinary collections?
3. What is the total amount derived from extraordinary collections?
4. What is the total amount derived from all other sources not included in any of the preceding heads (as Congregational Societies, Subscriptions, and Donations), for Schools, and other objects connected with the Congregation, and for Missions, &c.?
5. What is the total sum raised during the year, by the Congregation, from all the preceding sources?

#### 10. Expenditure.

1. What are the total emoluments paid to the Minister during the year, including stipend, travelling expenses to Synod and Presbytery, and allowance at the observance of the Lord's Supper?
2. Is there a manse, or allowance for a dwelling-house?
3. Is any allowance made for the Elder's travelling expenses to meetings of Presbytery and Synod?
4. What is the total amount paid for Precentor, Door-keepers, Communion Elements, interest of debt, repairs, and incidental expenses?
5. What is the present debt due by the Congregation?
6. What is the total amount distributed to the poor of the Congregation in the course of the year?
7. What is the total amount expended during the year for the support of Schools and Libraries?
8. What is the total amount expended during the year for Missions and other religious objects, beyond the sphere of the Congregation?—United Secession Magazine.

## CHRIST THE ONLY HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

But in addition to the people's privileges now to be struggled for, there is also another principle involved in the present question, in opposition to which no power in Scotland has ever permanently triumphed—no firmness has been of any avail—the doctrine of the sole Headship of Christ in his Church, as opposed to every other supremacy.

This animated the breast of him "who never faded the face of man," and his noble band of reformers. It sustained his immediate when, while nobles crouched to the James, the ministers of the Church