

REPLY.

ROGER'S HILL, Aug. 28, 1836.

To Mrs. John Sutherland, and the other Ladies of Committee:

Allow me to thank you, with all my heart, and, through you, the other ladies of this part of the congregation, for the handsome purse now presented by you. Believe me, I with much pleasure accept of this unlooked-for gift, as a token of respect and attachment on your part; and if anything done heretofore, in the discharge of duty among you, has been the cause of drawing from you this expression of gratitude, I trust that this mark of esteem shall only prompt and stimulate me to more and more diligence. Further, I assure you that the hope expressing my long continuance in zeal and love in the discharge of ministerial duties among you, to me indeed is very gratifying; and I earnestly hope, while God sees it proper to preserve the ties which now exist between us and bind us together to continue by his strength and blessing faithful to my calling. Finally, believe me, these sentiments expressing your good wishes for my prosperity in the Church of God's dear Son, afford me boundless satisfaction. And I trust by the help of God's Spirit to be enabled to break unto you the bread of life, and feed both the lambs and sheep of the flock. At the same time desiring earnestly that the Holy Spirit of promise may impress your minds by His gracious word, and bring your hearts more and more into conformity with His will. May God's blessing be with you. Again I heartily thank you for your generous gift.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN GOODWILL.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

This committee, it will be remembered, was appointed to do work of a preliminary kind, viz: to collect statistics and to enquire into the working of our Sabbath Schools. It is well that this subject has been taken up by the Synod; and your committee are of opinion that the Church is indebted to the Rev. gentleman who brought forward the overture last year.

The Sabbath Schools within the bounds are of two kinds, viz.: town schools and country schools, and between these two classes there are several points of difference. In nearly every instance, the town schools are composed of children belonging to our own Church; the country schools include children of other denominations. In nearly every instance, the town schools use a scheme of lessons; the country schools use none. In nearly every instance, in the town, the teachers have week-night meetings for united preparation and united prayer; in the country they dispense with these. In nearly every

instance, in the case of the town schools, the minister can visit his school each Sabbath; in the country, he must content himself with an occasional visit to the various district schools. In nearly every instance, the town schools use a Hymn-book; the country schools confine themselves to the Psalms and Paraphrases.

The town schools are as follow:—

- (1)—St. Andrew's, Newfoundland,
- (2)—St. Andrew's, Halifax,
- (3)—St. Matthew's, Halifax,
- (4)—St. James', Charlottetown,
- (5)—St. Andrew's, Pictou,
- (6)—St. Andrew's, New Glasgow.

A few others, such as those in the villages of Wallace, Albion Mines, &c., partake partly of the character of town schools. All the others may be classed as country schools. The following is an approximation to our present numbers:—In the six town schools, we have about 700 scholars and 100 teachers. In our country schools, numbering about 45, we have 1400 scholars and 140 teachers. The proportion of scholars will thus be seen to be about 7 to each teacher in the town, and 10 to each teacher in the country.

The difficulty of taking all our schools under our supervision arises from the fact that the country schools are for the most part mixed schools—that is, composed of children belonging to denominations other than our own.

With regard to the use of a common Scheme of Lessons or of a common Hymn-book, the committee do not undertake to make any definite suggestion. It may be necessary, however, to remark, that when no Hymn-book is used, considerable care should be exercised in selecting Psalms and Paraphrases suitable to the young; and, on the other hand, when a Hymn-book is used, the Psalms and Paraphrases should not be entirely excluded.

There is one other point to which your committee desire to call attention; and they wish to do so were it for no other reason than to establish some link that will serve to connect all our schools with the committee and with one another. That connecting link may not, in the meantime, be either a common Scheme of Lessons or a common Hymn-book, but it may be a common circulation of those excellent and cheap periodicals that can now be had so abundantly and so easily. It may suffice to mention *The Children's Paper* (Nelson & Sons), *The Child's Paper* (American Tract Society), *The Band of Hope Review*, and *The Sabbath School Messenger*, any one of which can be had for 12½ cents a year; and for furnishing more extended reading to the older boys and girls, there is an excellent fortnightly paper, *The Canadian Messenger*, 25 cents a year. The convenor will be happy to take in hand the regular monthly or fortnightly supply of these peri-