

view of directing attention to the present condition of our brethren of the Church of Scotland in South Australia. According to the last census it would appear that they amount to 5221, while the Free Church number only 1542; yet the latter have 4 Ministers of their denomination labouring in the colony, while among the National Church there is only one. This, it should be noted, does not arise from indifference on the part of the Colonists, or neglect of what falls to them to perform for obtaining pastoral instruction from the Church of their fathers. In connexion with that Church, they have built 4 places of worship, and a manse for their only Minister in Adelaide, the capital. Mr. M'Bean, who last year was translated to Ceylon, was provided with an income of £176, a glebe and free house. And the congregation, before he left, had commenced an Endowment Fund to which £200 had been subscribed. At other stations, where churches had been built, a very spirited effort had been made to get up endowments. Altogether in the Province not less than £25,000 had been contributed, in land and money, for this purpose; exclusive of £200 of an annual permanent income, which the Adelaide congregation had provided in addition to the former provision made for their minister. All this was the work of a few weeks a commencement only, and, it should be remarked, was contributed in great measure for a prospective benefit. Had the long wished-for Ministers been on the spot, additional spirit and perseverance would have been given to the movement, and an ample measure of success, whatever now may have been the result of hopes long deferred and disappointed.

The fact is, as is evident in this colony and others, that it is not the lack of material means, which deprives our Scotch Colonists of divine ordinances, but the dearth of preachers: at least of those gifted with a missionary spirit. In South Australia there is reason to believe that 2 if not 3 ministers would be provided for on their arrival; but the request of the Colonists, aware now of their scarcity, is confined in the meantime to the missionary, to itinerate in the districts or the vacant churches. Yet with this moderate request the Colonial Committee have not yet been enabled to comply. Much need is there for the Church for earnest prayer that the Lord would raise up reapers for the fields white for the harvest.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Scotch Education Bills.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday the Lord Advocate obtained leave to bring in two Bills to regulate and make further provision for education within burghs in Scotland. In his address, which is reported at length elsewhere, the learned gentleman explained the objects meant to be served by these bills. He said it was impossible that the exclusive

character of the parochial system could be longer maintained. Tests were indefensible, and he therefore proposed to abolish them for ever. As far as we could understand from his speech, it appears that his bills are calculated to give facilities for the establishment of new schools in burghs not subject to the control or supervision of the Established Church, and to remove those in rural districts from the superintendence which the Church at present possesses. There can be no doubt that the measures now introduced will find favour in the eyes of a great number of people, and may perhaps also be carried through the House of Commons, like that which was brought forward last year. It, however, remains to be seen, when the bills are published, whether they may not have to undergo as tough a trial as that to which their predecessor was subjected. It is quite true that the parochial schools of Scotland have ceased to satisfy the wishes of many persons. But on what grounds is the discontent based? It cannot be because the system of teaching, or the subjects taught are not according to the popular desire—because, with the exception of, here and there, some private schools, or such as are supported by denominations of persons whose religious tenets are peculiar, the parochial schools have been, and for the most part are, the models upon which all other schools have been established and conducted.

The real hostility shown to the parish schools of Scotland is now not against what they teach or what they neglect, but because they are an integral part of the Establishment. That is the sore point, and to remove all tuition from the control or supervision of the Established Clergy, every method of warfare is considered legitimate. Even the immense benefits which Scotland has derived from the parish schools is forgotten; and it is hardly too much to say that sectarian zeal would almost rather prefer ignorance to instruction, so long as the matter taught is not concocted after an exclusive formula. There is every reason to believe that, before the Lord Advocate succeeds in having his bills carried through committee, ample opportunity will be afforded for disquisition. In the meantime, the opposition has not been either loud or strong; but we do not, therefore, augur quite so much cordiality and concession on the part of the people of Scotland on the one hand, or the opponents of the new measures on the other, as the Lord Advocate seems to calculate upon.

LORD MONTEAGLE'S SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.—Lord Kinnard, in answer to inquiries about the Scotch Education Bill introduced into the House of Lords, says, "being detained in the country on business, I requested Lord Monteagle to move for me the first reading of a bill, to amend the law relating to parish schools in Scotland, and, according to the forms of Parliament, his name appeared on the bill as presenting it. The measure is in substance the same as that introduced two years since, and which I placed in Mr. Stirling's hands last session; the amendments are such as, I have reason to know, will ensure more general support; and I cannot conceive that any valid objection can be raised to a measure, which only enables the landed proprietors in Scotland to add to the efficiency of schools which they maintain, and for which they ask no public money."

Synod of Canada.

We are indebted to the kindness of a respected clergyman in Canada, for a pamphlet, containing the acts and proceedings of the synod of Canada for the last year, with lists of the different Committees, of the former Moderators, of the clergymen and representative Elders in each Presbytery, and a full account of the transactions of the synod at each diet of its meetings. As we have already published the greater part of the proceedings of the Synod in preceding numbers, it is unnecessary for us to refer to them at greater length at present. The Synod meets this year at Kingstou, Western Canada, on the last Wednesday in May, being the 28th day of the present month.

"Juvenile Presbyterian."

This is the title of a small new periodical lately commenced by a Committee of the Lay Association of Montreal, for the Sabbath scholars, and the rising generation in connection with the Church of Scotland, in Canada. The design is excellent and praiseworthy, and from the past history of the Presbyterian, we have no doubt the execution and the success of the Juvenile Presbyterian will be all that can be desired. It is published at as low a price as possible—one shilling per annum if 25 copies are taken, to secure a large circulation. The publishers have already received an order from Prince Edward Island, and they expect, and we have no doubt will obtain, considerable support in these lower Colonies where such a publication will be gladly welcomed by parents, ministers, Sabbath school teachers, and other friends of our youthful population.

Home Mission Fund.

	P. E. I. Cur	N. S. Cur.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1856.		46 6 6
Feb. 10.	Amount formerly received St. David's Church, Georgetown, Collection,	4 10 0
28.	St. James's Church, Charlottetown, do.	8 3 0
Mar 16.	St. Peter's Road, Station, do.	3 11 14
24.	Brackley Point Road, do	1 4 9
	The Hon. John H. Gray, don per Rev W Snodgrass	2 10 0
		£19 19 7½
	Exchange,	3 0 7½
		16 13 4
	Amount to this date,	62 19 6½

DAVID ALLISON, Treasurer

HALIFAX, 5th May, 1856.

Synod Fund.

1856	Amount formerly received The Hon. J. H. Gray, don. per Rev. W. Snodgrass,	£18 5 0
	Exchange,	2 10 0
		0 8 4
		2 1 8
	Amount to this date,	20 6 8

JAMES F. AVERY, M.D. Treasurer

HALIFAX, 6th May, 1856.