

allocate the seats, and I do not find that I lose, for these poor people, out of their own pockets, gave last year £140. We must not talk of heathens; but if you wish to direct your attention as a National Church to those who might much more be called heathen according to our ecclesiastical idea, I might recommend you to go to the island of Skye. I understand there are 7000 adults unbaptized in that island. They are connected with no Church on earth. If you are a National Church, you could go or send the Foreign Mission Committee perhaps. (Laughter.) I have heard the assertion hazarded that one minister of the Church had more communicants than there were north of the Moray Firth, and that minister was Dr. Smith, of North Leith. But the question is—How many communicants there may be, owing to the peculiar notions of the north? Those people do not belong to any church—they may be baptized, but I do not know—therefore, if you are to carry out names, irrespective of character—I am not calling them heathen, because it is a mere defect in judgment—I daresay many of them are Christian. You would not say to them that they were heathen in mind and spirit, but ignorant on certain points; so you do not say that about the masses in great towns—who are deprived of the ordinances; but try so to arrange these ordinances that you will come down to them if they cannot come up to you.

Another source of our difficulty is vice. There is a large class—viz., the vicious class. Again, I say I never came into contact with any of them, even those who seem the most degraded, without being affected. I think, my brother and sister, I am afraid I see vice in myself for you. Will you imagine why I dare not describe it? Will you stand in the way of these poor creatures—God help them!—being brought up again? The fact that father and mother, sister and brother, are huddled together, perhaps in a wretched room, not only vitiates their minds, but their bodies; and the whole tone and physique of the people becomes low and diseased, from the shocking atmosphere they breathe, and they lose health. This would be an excellent department for the Home Mission. It is this vitiated atmosphere which brings on the craving for drink, until it becomes a positive passion. That degrades them more and more. Here home mission work becomes linked into the providing of houses for the people. I admit that this vice is very great, but I would ask the Home Mission to consider these things. As a kirk-session, we have taken up savings banks and social meetings as a part of the work of the Church, and perform it on behalf of the people. But it is said that this is secular. Why secular? Secular! If you attend to a man's body, is it secular? I understand that a man is made up of soul, spirit, and body, and you cannot move one part without moving the whole. You might as well talk of the launching of the boat by the disciples to bring Christ across the lake as being secular as to say that a minister is secular in carrying on this great work. (Applause.)

The population of Glasgow is increasing at the rate of 1000 a month, and if that is the state of society you have to deal with, what are the means we are using to improve it? No doubt the first is that of living men—missionaries and ministers. But there are defects in connection with this agency that I would take the liberty of pointing out. First of all, in regard to the students, those, namely, of various Churches who give themselves as missionaries to city missions in order to educate them, and to keep them while they are going through college—I think that is a most defective agency. However excellent they may be, and however noble it may be to engage in that work, my experience teaches me it is apt to spoil a good student and a good minister—to spoil a good student, because, instead of attending to those minute details which must form the basis of all good education, he is apt to neglect these for his hard missionary work. A man cannot do it and attend to his duties as a student. Then, as a minister, I say it is a very hazardous thing indeed for the spirit of any man to have work given him to do which, from the very nature of his spiritual growth,