

# THE MONTHLY RECORD



OF THE

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, *is.*

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### THE CHURCH AT HOME.

#### The Church of Scotland in the Home Mission Field, 1854-55.

We love to see a church placed upon an eminence. Apart from all ideas of picturesque beauty, such a position appears most appropriately to symbolise its character. If, indeed, the duty of a church were merely to sanctify those within its pale, we should have it planted in some lowly valley, encompassed in the shades of luxuriant foliage, and hidden from the unballowed gaze of the worldly. But the true Christian Church is a much wider and more universal object of view. With no mythic rites darkening her precincts, her doors are open to all—her invitations are addressed to all—her prayers and her works are on behalf of all. As she has the brightness of a star, it is that her light may be seen even at a star-like distance; not that it may expire the moment it meets the outer air, like the fabled lamps in the tomb of Terentia. But while to extend her influence for good is one of the Church's chief duties, her efficiency in this respect, perhaps the highest test of her Christian courage and zeal. The deeper the oak strikes its roots in the soil, the wider will its branches spread—the fuller the gush of the fountain, the stronger will be the stream which freshens and beautifies its banks; and we may say, that the more vigorous the principles of faith and love are within a church, the wider will be the extent of her Christian enterprises, and the richer the outpouring of her Christian sympathy and action.

Of the manner in which the Church of Scotland humbly performs such duties, and how to be tried by such a test, we now desire to present a short review. It is long since we recognised the privilege, as well as the duty of her Mission Work; but it cannot be that there is now less need for urgency and strenuous exertion than there was when she first put her hand to the plough. In

the present age, as in the past, it is but too true that the old Adam is mightier than the young Melancthon. It is still the nighttime of the world. The darkness of ignorance and sin, the horrors of idolatry and crime, the clouds of infidelity and worldliness brood over the greater portion of the globe, and even war with its dread ravages bespeaks the awakening of passions which moralists had fondly dreamed were asleep for ever. It is, indeed, no time for rest. Watchman, what of the night?—is often the anxious cry of the storm-tossed wanderer upon a dangerous ocean. With a deeper earnestness of inquiry may we scan the dark future of destiny, as we ride over the billows of the sea of life. We know not what storms may arise, or what perils may be encountered. But cloud-wrapped as is the present, and distant as the dawn of brightness may appear, we have no cause for hopelessness. As yet we may see but faint and widely-scattered streaks of light spread over the moral horizon; but as the voice of Heaven breaks forth from the surrounding gloom, in accents of encouragement and promise, well may we gladden our souls with the prospect of a better era, when the full triumph of an ineffable love shall be accomplished, and the darkness of the night of earth be turned into the glory of the day of Heaven. "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength: lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!"

In the cursory review which we are now to take of the mission work of the Church of Scotland for the past year, we shall avoid as much as possible, a full detail, since this will be found in the Report of each Scheme, published in the *Missionary Record*; and our object is merely to present a succinct view of the whole.

We begin with a scheme which, while it was the first effort of the Church in her missionary field, appears second to none in importance. The

### EDUCATION SCHEME

carries with it the high recommendation that it spreads the light of truth and knowledge among thousands of children, who are found even amid Scotland's lonely moors and barren hills, both enveloped in ignorance and oppressed by penury. It is an encouraging fact that through the means which the Scheme has called into existence nearly 20,000 children are at present receiving education. The number of the schools is 181, irrespective of the Normal Schools; and the number of pupils in attendance at these schools during the last year was about 17,231. Including the Normal Schools, the whole scholars enrolled during the year was 19,234. As a pledge of the character of tuition imparted at these schools, it is interesting to know that about a third of the teachers hold government certificates of qualifications, entitling them to participate in royal bounty. This is doubtless in a great measure to be attributed to the *Normal Schools* in Edinburgh and Glasgow—the fountains of supply for the reinvigoration of the channels of tuition all over Scotland. During the last year, 157 students have been admitted to these schools, 23 of whom were instructed at the cost of the Education Committee, and 39 were Queen's scholars. The remainder were self-supporting. Of the students examined last June, 71 obtained the government certificate, shewing an increase of 22 on the preceding year.

Parochial education forms a most important element in the inquiries and care of this Committee, and interesting information on this subject has been obtained by them. But as the results of that information have been fully supplied to our readers, in the elaborate discussions which have so recently taken place in regard to education, we do not think it necessary to give any summary here. At the same time, we cannot forbear to observe how important it is for the interests of religion that an influential superintendence, whatever may be its nominal character, should still be maintained. If, as is