

ments of the chapels on the Committee's list, and the revenues of chapels (1) which are altogether self-supporting. I take the Committee's revenue, the £12,000 spent on building, and say £5000 for parochial missions unaided by the Committee (I know that not less than £1500 are spent in Edinburgh alone under this category), and I accept the result, £22,541, as the *certum*, though inadequate, representation of what the Church is raising, apart from self-support, for Home Mission purposes at home.

The fourth item on the home list is the Endowment Scheme. And here I am thankful to find the figures ready to my hand, and to see that the persistent enthusiasm of the Conveners and Committee resulted last year in the sum of £30,988, 0s. 7½d.

There remain a few items which may be taken together,—the collection last year by the Joint Committee on the Schemes, and subscriptions for Army and Navy Chaplains, Chumba, Shetland, &c., which may be set down as £1200.

Summing up, then, the Church's benefactions at home and abroad we find the following to be the result, so far as I can state it fairly and certainly:—

#### I. HOME PURPOSES—

Support of poor,	£11,678
Education,	27,385
Home Missions,	22,541
Endowment,	30,988
Various items,	1,200
	<hr/> 93,893

#### II. FOREIGN—

India,	£11,423
Colonies,	3,771
Jews,	3,773
Foreign Churches,	300
	<hr/> 19,267

In all, £113,160

The comparative statement near the beginning of my article should therefore have stood thus, comparing the benevolent efforts of the Churches apart from self-support:—

Church of Scotland,	£113,160
Free Church,	£69,812
U. P. Church,	50,690
	<hr/> £233,662

And the figures which grieved my correspondent in Australia, representing as they do the weakest part in our mission work, should have stood—Foreign Missions, Church of Scotland, not £5307, but £10,267.

I have, in former years, sought to corroborate my general statement by a few instances of the congregational efforts of the Church not made known in our public accounts. This year the general figures, are, I think, so substantiated as to need no corroboration; but as the cases are interesting, I subjoin a few.

The Presbytery of Edinburgh (with 42 charges) contributed last year, by collections to the six Schemes, the sum of £2310, 19s. 11d. In October last there was laid before the Presbytery a full account of sums raised within the bounds for missionary purposes. Three churches are not reported—these are Greenside, West St. Giles's, and the Dean Church. The amount raised in the Presbytery during the bygone year, not including these three cases, was £10,793, 3s. 7½d. If the sum of £2300 be added for the three omitted cases, we have the entire amount not less than £13,000. The three largest contributions were—

St George's,	£1518 5 7
St. Stephen's,	1455 17 6
St Andrew's,	1156 4 10½

And in these sums not a farthing devoted to self-support is embraced.

I might easily multiply cases, as in former years, but I rather go on to a few other points that may be more important.

The number of divinity students is a significant element in the working of a Church. I have not the numbers for last session, but for 1863-64 they stood thus:—

For the Church of Scotland (in 4 Halls),	247
the Free Church (in 3 Halls),	139
the U. P. Church (in 1 Hall),	151

Can the numbers connected with the three leading Churches in Scotland be reached, approximately? I may be thought to exaggerate if I state it as the result of many enquiries, though in point of numbers, the Church of Scotland is rather stronger than the Free and the U. P. Churches put together. Will my reasons for thinking so, be, however, fairly weighed? That there has been a great increase in the Church during the last twenty years is unquestionable. For some time before 1843, there was only one of our churches in Edinburgh, for instance, fully let. That was Lady Yester's. I shall surprise many people by the statement that there are now eight where sittings are not to be had. Of these, six are city churches—St Andrew's, Greenside, Lady Yester's, the Tron, Old Greyfriars, and Trinity College; one is a *quoad sacra* parish, St. Bernard's; and the eighth, Elder Street Chapel. To these we must add Newington, Morningside, Buccleuch, Lady Glenorchy's, and the Dean, which for years after 1843 had almost no existence as congregations, but must now have not fewer than 2300 communicants. In Leith, too, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there is scarcely a sitting to be had in either North or South Leith Churches. And yet Edinburgh is not unfairly considered one of the feeblest holds of the Church of Scotland.

In Paisley, again, the increase of the Church has been surprisingly great. During the ten years of the ministry of the late Mr. Wilson (to whose efforts much of the increase was due) the communicants of the Church, not in the Abbey parish, but in the whole town; had *trebled*! This fact is stated on his authority. Dumfries is another instance of a town where the increase of the Church of Scotland must have been almost, if not quite, equal to that of Paisley. The following are the statistics of a village in Ayrshire for the two years 1849 and 1864, and are given as an example of what has been going on in various parts of the country. The population of the village at present is 2500.

In 1849 the adherents of the Church were	315
Do. do. of the Free Church	1465
In 1864 do. of the Church were	851
Do. do. of the Free Church	858

In a small village district in Stirlingshire, where there is a Free Church on the Sustentation Fund, the Church of Scotland was believed to be almost non-existent till a few years ago, the local chapel being in difficulties, and having hardly 70 people in attendance. The following were the statistics in 1855:

Entire population	575
Church of Scotland,	354
Free Church,	172
U. P. Church,	41
Episcopal Church,	4
No Church,	4
	<hr/> 221

But instead of going further into this question, I rather quote from a statement made in a long article in the *Edinburgh Evening Courier* on the ecclesiastical statistics of Scotland, which enters into a minute examination of the figures, and