

"More explicit provisions were made for the establishment of parish schools by one of the Acts passed during the Commonwealth (1646, c. 46), which, although rescinded at the Restoration, was, together with many other beneficial Acts, re-enacted almost *verbatim* after the Restoration, in the statute 1696, c. 26—the foundation of our present system. The amount of stipend specified by this Act is 'not less than one hundred merks (£5, 11s. 1½. sterling), nor above two hundred merks.'

The records of the Church show how much it was concerned in the establishment of schools, and how great were the opposing obstacles, even after legislative sanction had been obtained. It would be out of place here to give the details. Among other things we find it enacted by the General Assembly in 1705—'*That the poor be taught upon charity, and that none be suffered to neglect the teaching of their children to read.*' In 1706, electors are recommended to prefer as teachers '*men who have passed their course at colleges or universities and taken their degrees.*' In 1802, a strong representation is made that the gains of parochial teachers are not equal to those of a day labourer, and that the whole order is sinking into a state of depression. This was happily followed by the passing of the act of Parliament in 1803 (43 Geo. III., c. 54), which still mainly regulates the appointment and removal, the duties and the emoluments, of parochial schoolmasters.

"By this Act, the heritors and minister of every landward (or partly burghal and partly landward) parish are constituted a Parliamentary Board for its administration; *heritors* being those only who have lands within the parish of not less than £100 Scots valued rent. In this respect the Act differs from that of 1696, which was interpreted as giving the right of appointment to the whole heritors of the parish paying cess, with the minister. The Presbytery have an exclusive and final jurisdiction in matters of neglect of duty, or criminality,—the grounds of removal being specified in the Act; and every schoolmaster-elect must, as the condition of office, sign the Confession of Faith, and Formula of the Church of Scotland, and undergo an examination as to literature and character, and be approved of by the presbytery; to whom also, and specially to the minister of the parish, is committed the superintendence of the school. The salary provided by this Act for the schoolmaster, in addition to a small dwelling-house, is 'not less than 300, nor more than 400 merks Scots.' This has yielded, for the period from 1828 to 1853, a *maximum* of £34 4s. 4d., and a *minimum* of £25 13s. 4d. sterling.

"A lower average of prices having lately come into operation, the *maximum* legal salary is now reduced to £27 11s. 9d., and the *minimum*, £20 13s. 10d. So inadequate has this provision been regarded, that, in a large proportion of parishes, the *old maximum* salary, or a salary above the present legal *maximum*, has been granted. From a return obtained in December, 1859, it would appear, that, at that date, in 400 parishes, no meetings had been held to fix the salaries under the Act of 1857. In some parishes, the legal *minimum* only, that is, a salary of £20, had been allowed!

"We now call special attention to the remarkable contrast between the parish schools and the burgh schools. The former, since they were finally settled under the Act passed in the beginning of this century, have been, both in respect of their administration and the emoluments of the teachers, too rigidly fixed; the latter have been progressive. The parish schools, although endowed, have been also fettered; the burgh schools, under the administration of the magistrates and councils, while generally dependent for their endowments upon the liberality of the municipalities, and in many instances insufficiently maintained, have been practically unfettered, and have thus freely become adapted to the local necessities. In the larger and wealthier burghs, the original schools have thus expanded into Institutions fitted to take the place of gymnasia, or intermediate schools, not yet otherwise provided in Scotland, and affording such education in the higher branches of study as adequately to prepare their pupils for the universities; in a few instances, they have acquired a distinguished reputation.

"Such expansion or development is unknown in the parochial schools; although, in many cases, the parochial teachers have made great efforts to supply the defect; and, besides furnishing the elementary instruction, have also provided the only teaching locally attainable in classics and mathematics, by which a very large proportion of the students could make even the present ordinary, though insufficient, preparation for entering upon a university curriculum. By those who have seriously considered in how great a degree the elevation of the middle classes in Scotland has been due to the university culture, thus brought within their reach, these services, and those of the burgh schools, are not likely to be undervalued. Now, what is the remuneration of these teachers? In his interesting Report for the year 1858, Mr. Gordon, the Inspector for the South-western District, has given an estimate of the total emoluments of the parish schoolmasters within his district, which contains the counties of Renfrew, Lanark, Ayr, Dumfries,

Wigtown, and Kirkcudbright, and may be reckoned probably as among the best provided in this respect. Including the allowances by parochial boards, kirk sessions, and private individuals for the education of the children of the poor, and also including mortifications, he concludes that 'the average income of a parish schoolmaster in this district (not including the value of the dwelling-house) is £70; consisting of £27 salary, and £43 from school fees.' With reference to Scotland generally, this must be considered much above the average. On the other hand, in the northern counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, the position of many of the parochial schoolmasters has been greatly benefited by allowances from the Dick Bequest, through a distribution of that fund conceived with great judgment, and executed with great fidelity and success. By means of an annual expenditure never rising above £5000, and often falling far below that sum, the parochial schools in these counties have been materially elevated. The number of parishes containing schools admissible to the bequest is 124, and the population in 1851 was about 250,000. The bequest came into operation in 1833, and the first Report regarding it was issued in 1835. The Report from which we quote, prepared with much ability by the late Professor Allan Menzies, was issued in 1854. During that interval the yearly worth of the office of parish schoolmaster 'had risen from £55 12s. 5d. to £101 1s. 7d., including in the latter sum the allowance from this bequest. £20 additional is enjoyed by the Aberdeenshire schoolmasters in receipt of the Milne Bequest. At the same time, their domestic comfort and respectability has advanced; the dwelling-house, which in 1833 consisted of three apartments only, having been enlarged to five by the liberality of the heritors.' At the end of that period of twenty years, there were thirty more pupils, upon an average, enrolled annually in every parish school than at the beginning. 'The elevation of the literary character of the school pervades every part of the instruction; and the large numbers who now receive a knowledge of English grammar and geography, as well as the increase in the study of mathematics, Latin, and Greek, give unequivocal testimony to steady upward progress, and the rising standard of attainment among a widening circle of the people.' It is highly encouraging and instructive to learn, that so small a sum as £5000 annually, *well spent*, in aid of parish schools, will materially benefit a population of not less than a *quarter of a million*. Before leaving this Report, which contains much interesting matter relating to the state of education in these counties, attention must be called to the statement, that, after a careful inquiry, '*forty-nine of the parishes within the district are reported as containing no person between the ages of eight and twenty years unable to read; and thirty-eight parishes as containing none within these ages unable to write.*'

"We have said something as to the emoluments of parish schoolmasters in the best provided districts; were we to travel to the Highlands, we should find many of them in a state not far removed from pauperism. Many of them have incomes not exceeding £40 a year. That their emoluments, on the whole, are utterly inadequate, no man can question; and it may be assumed that, in order to raise the quality of the teaching, the pecuniary position of the schoolmasters must be improved. What might have been anticipated under the ordinary laws which regulate industry, is also stated to be the fact. Mr. Gordon writes:—'There is a proportion observed to exist, in general, between the income of a master, and his efficiency in the duties of his school; but this proportion is apt to be disturbed when he is encumbered with several of the adjunct offices now mentioned, and with one of them in particular.' The offices here alluded to are those of session clerk, heritors' clerk, parish registrar, and inspector of the poor; the last 'often laborious and lucrative, and always ill according with the proper occupation of a schoolmaster.'

"Next, *in number*, the parochial schools have long been felt to be quite insufficient for the public necessities. Their number is about 980; and we have seen that so early as 1704 the General Assembly began to take steps for the establishment of schools in the Highlands by means of general subscriptions. The efforts then begun seem never to have been entirely discontinued; and they have resulted in the establishment, as appears from the last report, of not fewer than 189 schools. Then there are sessional schools, some of them of considerable antiquity and importance; the number aided by the Privy Council being 66. The schools established by the Christian Knowledge Society seem to be about 150. To these, perhaps, should be added about 78 schools, established by the United Presbyterian Churches, and receiving no public aid; also the very large number of private and adventure schools and academies, carried on by individuals or societies both in town and country districts, but chiefly in the former.

"The schools already named as additional to the public schools, may be regarded as auxiliary or allied; a considerable proportion, at least, of those we have now to notice must be deemed rival. When the disruption of the Church of Scotland took place in 1843,