

of these no fee is exacted, and the boys are trained to be operatives, and the girls for active employment. Besides these four, there are two Female Industrial Schools, which were examined in presence of a large assemblage of lady-visitors, who take a deep interest in their management. The various kinds of knitting and needle-work exhibited elicited from them much commendation, while the cleanliness and order of the girls could not be too highly praised. The charges for each varied and valuable instruction is as low as can be made; and, to prove how much it is appreciated, the names on the collective roll, including both day and evening classes, amount to 1300. These schools, we are informed, are all kept up and attended to by the Kirk-Session of St. John's and that they require about £230 per annum, which is got from the church-door collections. Two elders in turn take a monthly inspection of all the schools, and report to every meeting. We are confident no parish in Scotland of the same size, or even very much larger, has such a complete educational machinery. Let this be extended over the land, and little need would exist for any further legislation on the subject; and, if Dr Guthrie would only take time to investigate such facts, which are common, he might be persuaded that, since he left the Establishment, the Church's superintendence over her parochial and sessional schools is something more than a sham!—*Communicated to the Constitution.*

On the evening of Thursday, 19th April the Rev. Robert Macnair, M. A., Gourrock, was presented by his female Bible class with a token of their esteem and gratitude for his instructions, in the shape of a beautifully bound and handsomely mounted copy of the English version of Bagster's Polyglot Bible, bearing a suitable inscription. The night selected for the presentation was the last on which the class met for the season. The gift says much for the good feeling, as well as good taste, of the donors.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Letter—Rev. George Morper to the Secretary, dated Wallace, Nova Scotia, Feb'y. 24, 1855.

On the 4th of January last I wrote you from Halifax, informing you of my arrangements for the winter months, and stating that, owing to my being unable, in consequence of the lateness of the season, to cross to Prince Edward's Island, it had been deemed advisable for me to occupy my time during the interval in labouring as a missionary within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Halifax and Pictou. My being thus prevented from going direct to the locality for which I was more immediately destined, has proved in so far fortunate, as it has been the means, not only of putting it in my power to witness the actual state of our Church in various parts of this colony, but also, I should fain hope, in some measure of encouraging, by my presence among them, the languishing hopes of some of her attach-

ed friends who have been so long destitute of religious ordinances, and whose devotion to her, through good report and evil, so well deserves her active sympathy on their behalf. And I humbly think, that a missionary sent out to these colonies, whatever might be his special destination, could not be better employed for the first few months after his arrival, than in making as wide a circuit as possible, to prove that the Church of Scotland, if, in the meantime, she has it not in her power to supply all her waste places, is yet, with such means as she possesses, exerting herself to the utmost to satisfy the spiritual wants of her adherents, wherever they may be found scattered. In the labours of her missionaries, regard must be had to her future as well as to her present condition and prospects; otherwise it is very much to be feared, that the long deferred hopes of some of her most devoted friends, if not stimulated and kept alive by some such token of her regard for their condition, may, by and bye, amid such unfavourable influences as are at present at work, come to be altogether extinguished, and numbers irretrievably lost to her communion.

According to previous arrangements, as soon as the weather was in some degree settled, the Rev. Mr. Mann and I, on Saturday, the 20th of January, proceeded on our missionary tour. Though the snow had recently fallen in considerable quantities, and the roads were very heavy, we managed before night to reach our respective destinations.—Mr. Martin quitting company with me at the road leading to Meagher's Grant, where he was to preach next day, while I proceeded some ten miles onward to Musquodoboit, a large settlement upwards of forty miles from Halifax. Though it was somewhat late before I arrived, I was fortunate in finding every comfort and accommodation at the house of the Rev. John Sprott situated at no great distance from the church, where I was to officiate the following Sabbath, and of which intimation had been given a week or two previous. From the state of the weather for some time past, I confess I was not very sanguine on the score of attendance; but I was agreeably surprised when I entered the church and found about 150 people assembled, many of whom, as I afterwards understood, had travelled on foot considerable distances to hear once more the Gospel proclaimed to them from the lips of a minister belonging to the Church of their fathers. It was truly refreshing to see such a manifestation of attachment to our beloved Zion on the part of those who had so seldom enjoyed the regular services of a clergyman of our Church. One old and venerable looking man, whom I spoke to, mentioned that he had travelled five miles that morning to hear divine service, and that although, from the cause already mentioned, there was but little chance of my arrival. Such instances of devotion to our Scottish Judah are by no means uncommon, and are very affecting. In the church at Musquodoboit, I preached two sermons, and was listened to with such marked attention as I have seldom witnessed on the part of any congregation. The singing also was excellent; and, unlike the practice of some of our congregations at home, most, if not all of those present, joined in it. I fear, however, that if active measures are not immediately adopted by the Committee, this important station, where, at one time, I believe, our supporters were counted by hundreds, will soon be altogether lost to the parent Church. Ministers of other denominations, Methodists,

Baptists, and others, have again and again sought to establish a footing in this district; and at the time I speak of, a subscription paper was in active circulation to secure the regular services of a Methodist preacher. In this somewhat discouraging state of matters, it was deemed advisable for Mr. Martin and myself to spend a day or two in visiting as many as possible of the families in the neighbourhood, with the view of ascertaining the state of feeling among the people with regard to our Church. The result was certainly gratifying enough; but it is evident that little permanent good can be effected unless the Committee send out a person to labour regularly among them. It is, I believe, quite impossible for Mr. Martin, or the others, to visit them oftener than once in two or three months, as their time is so much occupied with their own duties in and around Halifax. I would therefore take the liberty of suggesting, what I believe to be the wishes of all parties concerned, that some effort be immediately made by the Committee on behalf of this really important and promising district, which, along with several smaller stations around it, would form an excellent field for a travelling missionary to act under the direction of the Presbytery of Halifax. Any of our young licentiates, with no immediate views at home, and who has a regard for the spiritual welfare of his expatriated countrymen, who are here hungering and thirsting after the bread of life, while there is none to nourish them, would find this situation in every respect a very eligible one, and one in which he might be very serviceable to the Church of Christ. The people are very kind and obliging; and no young man who comes out here, and who has his heart in the work, need fear the result. His labours cannot fail to be appreciated.

Finding the church at Musquodoboit to be pre-occupied for at least two Sabbaths in succession, I conceived that my best course was now to proceed in the direction of Pictou, the stronghold of our Church in this colony, and where it has been proposed I should labour during the rest of my time. Nova Scotia. But owing to the state of the weather, I found, after proceeding so far, that I would be obliged to stay over Sabbath at an inn in Upper Stewiacke. There, on Sabbath, the 28th, not choosing to remain idle, I preached in a schoolhouse, which is occasionally used as a place of worship by the Secession. Most of those who attended were, I believe, of that denomination; and although intimation was given only on the previous Saturday evening, the room in which I officiated, and which is capable of containing upwards of one hundred people, was crowded to overflowing.

On the Monday following, I reached Gareloch, one of the four stations occupied by the Rev. Alexander McLean. The duties which devolve upon this gentleman as the pastoral superintendent of so extensive and populous a district of country, are very arduous; and were he not sustained by the hope of soon receiving assistance from home, it would be impossible for him to undergo such an amount of labour and fatigue as the discharge of them necessarily involves. Not long before my arrival in Gareloch, it had been proposed to build a new church near the site of the old one, and within a very short period upwards of £800 were subscribed for that purpose. This says much for the zeal and liberality of the good people of Gareloch, and affords an example well worth imitating by other congregations similarly situated. On Sabbath afternoon I