

This, in a great measure, explains the unprecedented increase of 14,000 scholars in one year."

At the last Census in Scotland, the proportion of Sabbath Scholars of all denominations, was 1 in 10 to the people at large. Last year the number of enrolled scholars in the Church of Scotland, was 125,196, or "1 in 23 as the proportion of scholars to population over the whole Church. The proportion for the previous year was 1 in 25." These statistics are fitted to remind us that to arrive at a similar advancement, our ratio must increase. If we suppose that we have 80,000 members and adherents throughout the Province, we ought according to this rate, to have not less than 8,000 Sabbath Scholars under our tuition.

The Sabbath School work among us calls for more labourers. The proportion at present seems to be less than 1 to 10, between teachers and scholars. Not only, however, is there a call for Christians to give themselves to this excellent work, it is equally important that the teachers should be well qualified and adapted. Undoubtedly the best and most essential of all qualifications in Sabbath School Teachers is, that they be living epistles of Christ, "known and read of all men," but along with this preliminary attainment indispensable to success, much intelligence, skill and acquirements are requisite, in order to efficient Sabbath School teaching, while all must be sustained by prayer, preparation and perseverance. Thus going forth in faith and love, no Sabbath School Teacher need to doubt that God will send forth the life-giving and healthful Spirit of His grace, to honour the patient and painstaking efforts which from week to week, and Sabbath to Sabbath, are consecrated to the glory of the Head of the Church.

In the general disposition of our congregations to avail themselves of the aid of Sabbath Schools, there is great encouragement to go forward in this good work. We have not to complain that only the poorer class of our people avail themselves of these means of grace. Every class among us is to be found, the Committee believe, in our Schools. The rich and the poor are there, and while many attend whose Christian education is neglected at home and in the family, there are also in regular attendance, those who are faithfully watched over by parental love, and trained from childhood to know "the holy Scriptures." Of the Sabbath School it is said, that "it has become the grand instrument in the hands of the Church for proclaiming Christ to the rising generation. It is felt to be almost an essential part of the machinery of every Christian congregation."* The Committee, therefore, venture again most humbly, earnestly and affectionately, to urge upon every Minister of this Church to take the liveliest interest in this cause, and if at all possible, to have a Congregational Sabbath School, where he may meet with and influence for higher good, the young and rising generation of his flock. The circumstances of our country, as well as those of our Church, require this. For while the Christian and devotional elements are encouraged by our Common School system, it also appeals to each Pastor to have an especial regard to the religious instruction of the day scholars belonging to his congregation. This he can most conveniently as well as most effectively do, by means of the Congregational Sabbath School.

Without at all disparaging those "Union Schools where the truth as it is in Jesus," is soundly inculcated, your Committee are of opinion that the Pastor's own Sabbath School may be expected to yield richer and better fruits. This conviction seems to be increasing among our ministry, and every Minister will find that while it is good to take, as far as possible, the oversight of his young people who attend a Union

* Report of Assembly's Committee, page 11.