

# THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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## POETRY.

### HYMN FOR THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

O child of dust ! if e'er thine eye  
Has watch'd the torrent's flow,  
Where, distant from its source on high  
It sweeps the vale below :  
Then hast thou seen a silent force  
Pervade its current strong,  
No sound, no ripple marks its course,  
And yet it speeds along.

'Tis noiseless thus, but swift as thought,  
The stream of time rolls by ;  
And thus, though man regards them not,  
His precious moments fly.  
A few brief days in splendour bright,  
Yon glorious orb has shone ;  
And next, a few returns of night,  
And lo ! a year is gone.

Lord, grant me grace these seasons fleet  
To thee alone to spend ;  
That I with joy thy face may meet,  
When life's short race shall end.  
And teach me on that Saviour's love  
To build my only trust ;  
Who, though he fills a throne above,  
Was once allied to dust.

O then, while days and years shall glide  
In silent speed away,  
My soul shall view the ebbing tide  
Without the least dismay.  
For still my Saviour-God shall be  
At hand, though unperceiv'd ;  
And I salvation nearer see  
Than when I first believ'd.

DR. HUIE.

## Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FUND.

#### DR CHALMERS' VISIT TO THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

The attention of our readers has already been repeatedly directed to the Supplementary Fund, and the efforts of the Church Extension Committee to have that Fund completed. They are aware that the object which the Committee have in view is to raise, as speedily as possible, the sum of £100,000, out of which grants may be voted on a more liberal scale than hitherto, and at least one hundred additional churches may be built in localities so poor and unfriended that, unless such enlarged assistance is afforded, there is little or no chance of the parochial system, with all its attendant blessings, being brought to bear upon them with efficiency and success.—When the liberality of the Christian people of Scotland shall have put the above sum at the disposal of the Committee, the erection, in the most destitute districts of the country, of at least one hundred new churches, over and above those which were reported to the Assembly of 1838, will be secured ; one hundred additional missionary-ministers will be sent to labour among the households of our at present outcast fellow-countrymen ; and, by the blessing of God, one hundred additional congregations will be formed, in which, from Sabbath to Sabbath, the worship of God will be celebrated, and a numerous people prepared, under the administration of word and ordinances, for the duties of a present, and the enjoyment of a future world.

Since last Assembly the efforts of the Church Extension Committee have been mainly directed towards the realization of this Scheme, and at the present moment the subscription considerably exceeds £40,000. The object aimed at, therefore, though well advanced, is still very far from being accomplished, and we must still, with all earnestness and urgency, beseech those who desire the general diffusion of God's truth in the land, to countenance, with befitting liberality, a plan which promises to be attended with such beneficial results.

It was one of Dr. Chalmers' main objects, in his late visits to the north of Scotland, to direct the attention both of Presbyteries and people to this great Scheme. Before the meeting of the General Assembly he had begun this work by addresses in Dundee, Perth, and other towns, followed up by subscriptions for the Supplementary Fund ; and an account of the success which attended these efforts, will be found in

the last Church Extension Report. Since the rising of the Assembly, he has completed two additional excursions to the North, and held meetings in the principal towns,—delivering addresses, uniformly to crowded audiences, explanatory of the nature and objects of the Church Extension cause. These addresses were also followed up, in the way of subscription, by a Deputation of the Committee who accompanied him, aided by the resident ministers and other friends of the Church. On both occasions the pecuniary results have been, in the highest degree, encouraging and satisfactory.

In the course of the first excursion, in June last, Dr. Chalmers visited and addressed meetings in Forfar, Brechin, Arbroath, Montrose, Stonehaven, and Aberdeen. Our readers will easily believe that this could not be done without leaving the most salutary impressions upon the minds of the people who listened to the addresses ; and, in point of fact, we know that they have dissipated many prejudices, diffused much information, and gained many friends both to the Church and the cause of its Extension. The contributions which were procured in the course of this journey, constitute a very substantial proof of the impression which has been made, and the general popularity of our cause. During the first visit to the country north of Dundee, no less a sum than upwards of £7000 was subscribed to the Supplementary Fund. The success which attended the efforts made in Aberdeen was very remarkable. Three addresses were delivered by Dr. Chalmers in different churches of that city ; a committee was formed to co-operate with the deputation from the central Committee in Edinburgh ; and in the space of ten days the subscription books exhibited offerings to the amount of £4500 from this city alone.

Dr. Chalmers' second tour to the North, in the months of August and September, was as eminently successful as the first,—perhaps even more so,—both in the way of diffusing sound information and raising money for the Supplementary Fund. His first address was delivered in Tain, and this was succeeded by similar addresses in Bornoch, Cromarty, Dingwall, Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Huntly, Banff, Peterhead, and Dunkeld. In many of these places the success which attended the subscription was very extraordinary, and such as greatly exceeded the expectations of the deputation who accompanied Dr. Chalmers for the purpose of thus collecting the fruits of his eloquent appeals. The town of Inverness, with a population, according to last census, of only 14,324, contributed, in a few days, no less a sum than £2000 ; Dingwall and Forres, each £500 ; Banff, £600 ; the Presbytery of Dunkeld nearly £600. Altogether the aggregate amount of subscriptions obtained during this last Church Extension tour does not fall much short of £8000 ; and if, as is understood and expected, the friends of the Church in the various localities which have been visited will continue to avail themselves of the impulse then given, and operate more thoroughly and pervasively on their several districts, much more striking results will unquestionably be yet produced.

In the course of Dr. Chalmers' progress several other subsidiary meetings were held, and discourses delivered explanatory of the Church Extension cause, by the members of the deputation which accompanied him, and which consisted of the Rev. Mr. Buchanan of Glasgow, Dr. Maitland Makgill Crichton, Esq. Rev. Mr. Lewis of Leith, Rev. Mr. Noble of St. Madoes, and the Secretary of the Committee. Such meetings were held in Thurso, Wick, Inverness, Dingwall, Keith, Banff, and Peterhead.

Our readers, of course, cannot expect that, in this short paper, an attempt should be made to exhibit even an outline of the arguments and expositions of such addresses. The object aimed at in them all was to convince the people of the necessity of Church Extension, and to explain what the Church had hitherto been doing in carrying forward the Church Extension Scheme. It was shown by multitudes of instances, derived from actual and accurate statistical surveys, that there were many districts of the country, both before the Church Extension movement began, and even still, where thousands upon thousands of our fellow-countrymen—and these uniformly among the poorest of the land—were as much estranged from the habits and the decencies of a Christian community, as if they were living in the wilds of Tartary, and in the bosom of actual heathenism ; it was shown that this miserable spectacle was owing to the utter deficiency of the means provided for their religious instruction ; it was shown that the true method of re-

medying the sore evil under which the country was, in these respects, labouring, was to assail the destitute districts, one by one, with all the powers, and appliances of the parochial system,—erecting a church, attaching to it as a parish a continuous population of not more, if possible, than 2000 persons, and placing over it a faithful minister, whose distinct and well-understood duty it should be, to labour among its households, to take cognizance in spiritual things of all its families, and to fill his church with a regular Sabbath congregation, gathered out of the district so assigned to him as a parish ; it was shown that to effect the change, so ardently desired, in the church going habits of the people, not only was the persevering aggression of ministers and elders, aided by the schools and schoolmasters, required, but that there might be no impediment in the way of the poorest finding access to the House of God, an endowment for the minister was necessary, that the seat rents might either be low enough, or nothing at all ; and it was shown that the work of Church Extension had been proceeding during the last five years with great activity, that a signal blessing had attended the Church's efforts in this department of her missionary exertions, and that the success of our new churches, labouring as they did under the want of endowments, and parochial equipments yet incomplete, had been very remarkable, in many cases most extraordinary.

It will easily be believed that such topics cannot have been explained and illustrated in the presence of so many crowded audiences without producing beneficial results. Accordingly many assurances have reached us of errors having been removed, and difficulties explained, and general favour secured for our cause, in quarters where formerly it had to encounter coldness, if not hostility. It is now generally and well understood, throughout the North of Scotland, that Church Extension means the religious instruction of the people, and is identical with all that most surely contributes to their temporal welfare and eternal happiness.

To return to the Supplementary Fund, we now remark respecting it :—1. That it has been completely established by Dr. Chalmers' northern tour, that the Scheme of the Supplementary Fund is perfectly practicable. A multitude of examples have now been given which show how readily, with a little care and trouble, it may be accomplished. After the instances of Dundee, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, Forres, and Banff, we cannot despair of attaining our object. Let every other town and parish in Scotland copy the example these have set, and the Scheme is realized.—There is money in the country ; there are hearts willing to bestow it for so good and holy a cause as that we are advocating ; all that is wanting is men willing to devote a little of their time to go and ask it.

2. It is to be observed, that nothing worth describing has been done as yet, for the purpose of generally inviting the friends of the Church in the towns and parishes south of the Tay, to be contributors to this fund. With the exception of a few desultory, yet very successful operations in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and several other places, the south of Scotland has not yet been applied to in its behalf, and the whole of the wealthiest part of the country remains therefore to be yet overtaken.

3. It must be kept in view, that even in the country north of the Tay, the work has not yet been adequately performed. Nothing has been done beyond visiting the large towns, and not even the whole of these.—Many wide districts, including most of the country parishes, have not been entered upon at all, and of course have not had the opportunity either of being made aware of the exigencies of our cause, or of contributing to its support.

From these considerations, therefore, it is evident that while on the one hand, there is every encouragement to proceed in the work we have undertaken, there is, on the other, a necessity for strenuous and persevering exertion on the part of all who are friendly to the object we have in view. Without this general exertion—a nouncing, it may be, in many cases, to a sacrifice of time and trouble, as well as of money, it will be vain to look for the realization of the Supplementary Fund. But we do trust that such a sacrifice will not be grudged : and that while there are friends to our cause liberal enough to contribute, there will not be wanting agents numerous enough to call that liberality into operation. Accordingly, the Church Extension Committee have resolved upon attempting the construction of an agency for thus pervading those districts of the country which have not yet been appealed to in behalf of our cause, and are at present