

REPORT IN REGARD TO ST. PAUL'S
SABBATH SCHOOL, MONTREAL, 1853-4.

Before bringing under notice a brief statement of the more ordinary operations in connection with St. Paul's Church Sabbath School, we are called upon in the outset to direct our grateful attention to one circumstance which distinguishes the present Report from those of former years. Through the kind guardianship of Him, who is "the length of our days," we have not now, as on previous occasions of this kind, to record any breach by death amongst either teachers or scholars. Allusion to such a circumstance will, we trust, awaken in all of us appropriate emotions of gratitude. The memory in a moment's glance can bring before the mind's eye the forms of 2 teachers and 5 pupils, who within these few years were wont to go in and out along with us in our Sabbath School meetings, but have now passed away into another sphere. May such retrospect have the effect of stimulating the teachers and the taught to greater fidelity in the discharge of their respective duties. The interval of a year has not passed without some pupils having been visited with dangerous maladies. We trust that such of these as are now present, as well as such of them as are still absent either from personal weakness or domestic restraints, do feel truly grateful for God's preserving goodness to themselves and theirs.

From the Report, submitted at the anniversary on the 15th March, 1853, it appeared that our School numbered 68 girls under 8 teachers, and 46 boys under 7 teachers, making a total of 114 scholars under 15 teachers.

Our Roll-book shows the present number to be 68 girls under 10 teachers, and 42 boys under 6 teachers, or a total of 110 scholars under 16 teachers.

Shortly after our anniversary, as 68 girls gave to each teacher an average of 8 scholars, (a number somewhat larger than can be efficiently overtaken when there may happen to be inequality of progress) it was considered proper to form 2 other classes by drafting off a few from the old ones, and getting a few newcomers. Accordingly 2 young ladies volunteered their services as teachers, and the classes were formed. The diminution of one in the number of male teachers arose from the removal of Mr. George Young to Hamilton in May last. From having been a pupil in the Sabbath School he became a teacher. He always took a lively interest in promoting its well-being generally, and manifested great earnestness and steadiness in the discharge of his duty to his own class in particular.

The inspection of the Roll-book seems to justify us in drawing the conclusion, that the cases are extremely few in which the non-attendance cannot be fairly attributed to inclemency of weather or indis-

position, personal or relative. The average attendance from the first Sabbath of December to the last Sabbath, April 9th, both included, amounted to 86. The inspection also reminds us of the very rare absence on the part of the teachers from their post, in no case, we are persuaded, except from reasons too justifiable. In connection with this matter, we feel called upon to notice in terms of commendation that 2 of the Female Teachers, who were necessarily absent from Montreal during several weeks in summer, had taken care that their place should be supplied by suitable substitutes. Such considerateness is well worthy of imitation, and helps materially to maintain the routine of the ordinary duties unbroken.

On New Year's Day, through the generosity of a member of the congregation, Donald Ross, Esq., an accession of 200 valuable books, neatly bound in cloth and lettered, was made to the 350 volumes of which the Library was previously composed. This donation, which cost £10, comprises a hundred volumes of the London Religious Tract Society, 2 Juvenile Libraries of the Mass. Sabbath School Society, (40 and 25 volumes respectively), and 35 selected from the excellent publications of the Messrs. Carter and Brothers, New York. The reading in these works is of the most suitable description for youthful minds, and is adapted to every stage of progress, from those who are receiving the first elements of Christian knowledge to those who, in the upper Bible classes, may shortly join the communion of the Church, or become Sabbath School Teachers. The teachers and scholars embrace this opportunity of tendering their grateful acknowledgements to the donor for so seasonable a replenishment of the library. At the same time it is but just to add that the worth of the donation was enhanced by the friendly consideration of Mr. John Armour, who, by giving the books at cost price, rendered the donation in reality equivalent to £12 or more. 70 numbers of the "Missionary and Sabbath School Record," issued by the Canada Sabbath School Union, and 70 numbers of "The Child's Paper," issued by the American Tract Society, continue to be distributed each month. To these the increase of funds arising from the collections at the close of each meeting in the Sabbath School, has encouraged us quite recently to add "The Juvenile Missionary Record and Sabbath Scholar's Magazine, in connexion with the Church of Scotland." This accession to our periodicals, we doubt not, will be duly appreciated. These 3 periodicals will cost about £10. In this way each family, connected with our Sabbath School, will receive one copy of three periodicals, that can be safely recommended to the young for their careful perusal.

It is gratifying to announce that the collections in the Sabbath School have

amounted during the past year to £9 6s. 9d., being £2 18s. more than in 1852-3.

In consequence of a desire having been occasionally expressed that something towards the cause of Missions should be undertaken, in February a Missionary-box was procured and put up in the church-lobby for receiving such small sums as might from Sabbath to Sabbath be dropped into it, the intention being to devote the proceeds of the year's offerings to the support of such Missionary enterprises as by the consent of both teachers and scholars might be agreed upon. In consequence of the resolution of the British and Foreign Bible Society to send a million of New Testaments to China, it was agreed to devote to that object the contents of the Missionary-box up to April. In this way the School has devoted £3 10s. 10d., the amount found in the box, to sending 170 New Testaments to China. We believe that we are warranted in indulging the hope that the Mission-box will be found to contain at each successive anniversary a creditable amount towards the furtherance of a cause so congenial to the feelings of every right-minded Christian.

Our Pastor, according to the announcement at last anniversary, has steadily addressed the scholars, whose attention he has engaged throughout by illustrating the points of the addresses with anecdotes and facts adapted to their period of life.

During the by-gone year no material change in the mode of instruction from that pursued in former years has taken place. It may be stated that, with the view of imparting confidence and success to a few scholars who are connected with the church choir, Mr. Simon McKenzie, who has so long led our singing, has, for a few weeks past, taken these out with himself, and left the burden of leading the singing to them. It is intended, hereafter, generally to open or close our meetings with singing one of the 50 hymns that have now been learned during 4 years' successive practising.

In bringing this Report to a close, whilst I would refer with much satisfaction to the general conduct of the scholars during the year, and embrace the opportunity of anew tendering my thanks to the teachers and librarian for their continued punctuality and diligence in the discharge of their duties, I cannot but refer with the greatest satisfaction to the peace and harmony that have uniformly prevailed; and beg to express a confident hope that in the same spirit of hearty co-operation we may encourage each other in prosecuting our labours.

PARISH OF ALBIE.—We understand that the Duke of Richmond has intimated his intention to present the Rev. Alex. C. Cameron, assistant Greek Professor, King's College, Aberdeen, to the church and parish of Albie in the Presbytery of Abemethy, vacant by the decease of the Rev. John Macdonald.