

at the earliest age, and orphans, as a class, are unprotected and uncared for, the ladies resolved to adopt orphan girls, and, in order to their maintenance as well as instruction, set about providing Refuges. The step was a wise one, for in the East females marry early—frequently at 12 or 14, and our ladies considered that by subjecting them to Christian influences till then, they should have laid the foundation of a future Christian family; and therefore Orphanages were adopted as an expedient. The scheme has proved a successful one. There are now Orphanages in four places in India: in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Sealkote; and so popular is the movement, that Sabbath Schools in Scotland and the Colonies vie with one another in maintaining pupils. Some years ago, so numerous were the applications that the institution in the chief Presidency had to be enlarged; and at this moment, nearly thirty of the orphans are supported by schools in Canada and the Lower Provinces. The yearly tax of supporting a pupil is £5 currency, and ten shillings go for a Bible. Quarterly returns of the progress of the pupil are forwarded by Mr. Paton, Kingston, Canada. Some of the orphans are but infants, and therefore only learning to read and sing; others, again, are more advanced; but in all the Christian idea is being carried out to leaven their minds with religious influence, as well as to teach doctrines, that hereby their minds may be disabused from the superstitions of their country, as well as their hearts opened to the truth. Several have been married from the institution, and others have entered the Church with hopeful signs. St. Andrew's Sabbath School in this town owes its Rhoda and Lydia to the kind intervention of the Rev. J. C. Herdman, Senior Chaplain, Calcutta, who is a constant visitant upon the schools; and its information and returns, &c., to Mr. Paton, Kingston, who has uniformly shown a deep interest in the prosperity of the scheme. That gentleman tells us, in his communication to our Synod two years ago, that "many schools being unable to collect the sum of \$20 required for the support of an orphan, a new effort has been commenced at Calcutta, of opening a native school under the same arrangement as the Orphanages. This has been very successful, there being over fifty children in attendance, and the number could easily be doubled did the funds permit. It has been arranged to divide the school into classes of four or five in each, and to call these classes by appropriate names selected by the schools or individuals who may undertake their support, the annual cost of which is fixed at \$10." This is something for those that cannot afford the regular \$20 for the Orphanage.

In conclusion, this Orphan system is fitted to exert a beneficial effect upon the schools that contribute, since the pupils will take a deeper interest in a living pupil, all their

own, than in a dead system. Accordingly, they should be taught to pray for their Lydia as well as to maintain her—that if it please God to open her heart (Acts xvi. 14), they may have an abundant return for their expenditure. Besides, it is laying the foundation of a generous nature in themselves. How many adults of our Church, who are now almost closed against any appeal, might have been hearty and bountiful benefactors had they been trained early to give to an Orphan Refuge!

A. W. H.

Pictou, May.

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Death of the Rev. Principal Leitch.

WE are convinced that the news of the death of the Very Rev. Principal Leitch, D.D., will be received with the most profound sorrow by very many of our readers. He had been so ill throughout the whole winter that he was seldom able to lecture or to discharge any of his important duties; but we still hoped that his vigorous constitution would triumph over his infirmities, and that he would be long spared to be an ornament and a support to Queen's University and to our Church in Canada. But the Great Disposer of all has seen fit to order it otherwise; and friends and brethren and Church must all bow in submission to His decree. This warm-hearted, genial friend, the courteous gentleman, the dignified Principal, the scholarly man of letters, loved and admired by all who knew him, has been taken from us; and whom have we to fill his place? We are not able, at such a moment, to give a calm estimate of his character, his abilities, and his work; neither, indeed, have we all the necessary information at hand: but we do sincerely trust that some one who knew and appreciated him, will charge himself with giving to the world a sketch of his life, along with a selection of his remains. Few literary men of the day had a more correct taste or a more lucid style than Dr. Leitch; and as he published little till within the last few years of his life, he must have left behind him many articles scientific and religious, the publication of which would be acceptable to a large circle of readers. His sermons were characterized by a charming simplicity of style, and a readiness of original and happy illustration that would cause them to be read with even more interest than they were listened to; and certainly it would be considered a great boon if one could be received for publication in the *Record*. For we are sure that nearly two-thirds of the readers of the *Record* were privileged to listen to the "speaking voice" when he visited the Lower Provinces last summer; and they would now read what he had written with feelings peculiarly solemn. Perhaps no man who ever visited our Synod became, in so short a time, so popular with all classes, with both our