

be furnished annually through this Committee to the Synod.

3rd. That, inasmuch as the state of vital religion in the hearts of the Ministers and other Office-bearers of the Church is found even to affect and regulate its condition among the people at large, the Synod issues a recommendation, that on the first meeting of every Church Court, whether Deacon's Court, Session, or Presbytery—after the 1st of October, the members observe a special season of brotherly conference, that they may unite in acknowledgement of sin, and in supplications for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost—and may, with the divine help, impart to one another some spiritual gift—and may have their brotherly love increased, and their hearts mutually refreshed and stimulated to a higher christian consecration than before.

4th. That a series of papers on topics of practical religion be prepared under the care of this Committee—and widely circulated in the form of a monthly fly-sheet, or in such other form as to the Synod may see fit.

D. FRASER.

REPORT OF UNION COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Union beg to report to the Synod that they met with the Union Committee of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church within the McNab Street Church, Hamilton, on the fourth and fifth days of the current month; and that they were engaged during a considerable portion of these two days in conference with their United Presbyterian brethren, on various matters and especially on the points in regard to which conflicting views were believed to be held by their respective Churches.

At both meetings there were present a pretty full attendance of the members of the two Committees; the first sederunt being composed on the side of the United Presbyterian Church of Dr. Taylor, Messrs. Jennings, Ormiston, Thornton, Skinner, Kennedy, and Proudfoot, Ministers; and on the party of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, of Messrs. Lowry, Inglis, Ross, McLaren, Laing, and Ure, Ministers, and William Heron Elder. One of the gentlemen above mentioned, named Mr. Ormiston, was obliged from circumstances, to be absent from the second sederunt; but, with this exception the members named, continued their attendance until the close of the proceedings.

A considerable part of the time occupied at both sittings, was spent in devotional exercises: it being felt by members of both Committees that much earnest and united prayer was especially in place, in connection with their endeavors to discharge the duty devolved upon them by their respective Synods.

The Conference at the first sitting turned upon a variety of topics, such as the state of feeling on the subject of union among the congregations of the two bodies, and the grand leading doctrines of the gospel, which they profess to hold as common. At the second meeting the question relating to the Civil Magistrate, formed the special subject of consideration; and after a protracted, though still somewhat general comparison of views upon this point—the Committee terminated their proceedings by the adoption of the following motion:—

"That having had lengthened conferences together, in the conducting of which the Committees have reason to believe that they have enjoyed much of the presence of the great Head of the Church, they were gratified to find, that apart from the question pertaining to the power, obligation, and duties of the Civil Magistrate, they are perfectly at one, on all the great doctrines laid down in the Westminster Confession of Faith. And further, that on the special question above referred to, and the points involved in, or connected with it, such as the exclusive Headship of Christ over his Church,

individual liberty of conscience in religious matters, and the obligation of all men, in all relations of life, to be governed by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, there was such a measure of harmony of sentiment manifested as to warrant the hope of its being found practicable to frame some declaration on these points, which might be regarded as mutually satisfactory, and calculated to prepare the way for a union of the two bodies:—It was, therefore, agreed to ask their respective Synods to re-appoint a Committee, to take additional steps to advance the union of Churches, holding so many great principles in common; and, especially to propose a declaration, which might afterwards be used as a basis of union, in which the exclusive Headship of Christ over his Church, together with the freedom of conscience on the one hand, and the duty of all men to be governed in all their private and public relations, by the authority of Christ in his word, on the other, may be fully maintained."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT URE *Convener.*

SABBATH SCHOOL—CHALMERS CHURCH, KINGSTON.

The Annual examination of Chalmers' Church (Kingston) Sabbath School, was held in the school room, in the basement story of the Church, on the 16th of April last.

The children to the number of 101 accompanied by a few of their parents and friends, assembled at 5 o'clock P.M. and the meeting being opened with prayer by their Pastor, the Rev. D. B. Pearce. They partook of Tea, which had been provided by the Teachers for the occasion.

At 7 o'clock, the examination commenced, with the repetition of portions of Brown's catechism, with and without proofs by the senior classes, after which the latter proved the following doctrine, viz. "The Divinity and Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ," and "Sanctification, is it an Act or a work; is it progressive and complete in his life?"

Timidity interfered, with the ready responses of some of the little flock, but upon the whole, their answers and behaviour were satisfactory.

Prizes were then distributed, each child being presented with a book according to the number of tickets received during the year. The plan of giving tickets for attendance, lessons, and behaviour, combined with the presentation of prizes, has been in operation for the last two years, and seems to have been attended with happy effects. Care has been taken not to excite envious feelings, by bestowing Books upon all, only giving the best prizes to those having the greatest number of tickets.

After the distribution of prizes, the Rev. A. Wilson addressed the children in a very pleasing and simple manner, suited to their capacities, and arrested the attention of his young auditors.

The proceedings were closed with praise and prayer, and all retired much delighted, with the interesting and profitable exercises.

It may be interesting to give some statistics of the past progress of the school, and its present standing.

In May 1852 there were upon the Roll 64 scholars, forming six classes.

From July 1853, to July 1854, the average attendances was.....47.

From Oct. 1853, to Oct. 1854.....52.

From Oct. 1854, to Oct. 1855.....64.

And from Oct. 1855, to 13 April 1856, or the 24 weeks preceding the examination, the average attendance was 82, and the number of pupils on the Roll 114, being an approximation to double the number of average attendance, and also of registered scholars in less than three years. Teachers 17.

During the past year a new Library has been provided for the use of the school, the fund for the purchase of which amounting to nearly £12, was raised by the children themselves, thus giving them an additional interest in it as the fruit of their own exertions. The number of Books in the Library is about 130. The plan of distribution, is to give one Book at a time to each family, which is found much better than that formerly adopted of giving one to each pupil who could read. The Books it is believed are more carefully perused, and a given number of volumes will serve a much longer time. Here are about 40 receiving books from the Library, and on an average three fourths of these change their books each Sabbath.

A missionary collection is taken up each Sabbath. The amount of our collections for missionary objects during the year, has been £7 8s 7d, including the proceeds of a sale of fancy work by some of the little girls. Last year the sum raised for a similar purpose, was £2 10s, which was devoted to the Foreign and Jewish Missions. This year the total amount has been appropriated to the education and support of Orphans in one of the mission stations in India.

Two Teachers prayer meetings are held in connexion with the Sabbath school, on the Lord's Day, one from 10 to 11 A.M.: for the preparation of the lesson:—the other on the closing of the school in the afternoon, to ask the blessing of God upon the labours of the Teachers.

A very favourable change in the outward demeanour of the children has been observed, and it is hoped, that a gracious change inwardly may have taken place in some under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, since these prayer meetings were commenced.

It is delightful to behold the diligence and earnestness with which the Teachers engage in their work of faith and Labour of love; and the sparkling eyes and fixed attention of the pupils, while they speak to them of Jesus as the Friend of little children, encourage the hope that many of them may yet receive him into their hearts, and be transformed into His image.

JOHN MAIR, *Superintendent.*

Kingston, June 7th, 1856.

HENRIANA.

It is wisdom to strengthen our friendship with those we find to be fair and honest.

We should bestow most pains on that part of our religion, which lies out of the sight of men.

That time is not lost which is spent in composing ourselves for the work of God.

We are truly serving God, when we are preparing and furnishing ourselves for his service.

Silence and quietness both become and befriend religious exercises.

God's work should be done, with as much care and with as little noise as possible.

Clamor and violence often hinder, but never further, the work of God.

When God sows plentifully, he expects to reap plentifully.

Let not the church's strength be impaired, under pretence of adding to its beauty or convenience.

None employ themselves for God, without having his eye on them.

An eye to the promise will carry us cheerfully through our work.

The strictness of God's government will never drive a good man from his service, but quicken him in it.

We are not only wonderfully made by divine providence, but more wonderfully made anew, by divine grace.

When we wait on God, and find our hearts wavering and unfixed, then by faith let us fetch in, help from heaven.