

self. The whole would be fitly concluded with a course on "The Church,"—showing the Catholic and Scriptural character of Presbyterianism. For this last, very suitable textbooks are found amongst the admirable series of Bible-class primers and hand-books published by T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh.

V. A brief course on Evidences would fortify our youth against the specious objections of shallow, popular infidelity.

VI. Besides being a most important branch of education, the composition of essays give an opportunity for more thorough study of subjects and biographies, which could not well be placed under any of the Departments.

Mr. Fotheringham further submits that in his opinion "The whole work of caring for the youth of the Church should be under one committee, as its various departments interlace so much. Would it not be well to recommend the Assembly to adopt a plan similar to that of the Presbyterian Church of England, and substitute for its present S. S. Committee one on

"THE RELIGIOUS WELFARE OF THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH"?

This committee would include Sabbath-schools as one department of its work. The committee to be presided over by a convener, who would have general oversight of all the work, and vice-conveners to whom the routine and administration of the several branches would be committed.

NOTES FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

By REV. JAMES ROBERTSON, D. D.

WINTER with us has not yet set in—the weather is mild, there is little or no snow, and hence mission work has been as easily prosecuted as in summer. We lament deeply that so many fields should be without supply. All the available students in Manitoba College have gone out for the Xmas holidays—three Sabbaths—and twenty-three of the vacant fields will get supply for that time. Mr. T. C. Court is to be inducted at Montrose on the 3rd of January, and Mr. I. L. Hargrave at Rosedale on the 4th. These two congregations have advanced from the status of mission fields. Treherne, Riverside, Dominion City, and other mission districts are also prepared to call, but cannot secure pastors. Mr. H. W. Fraser has resigned Ft. William to go as missionary under the American Board to North China. He joins Mr. Winchester, a former student of Manitoba College, who is labouring there. It does seem a pity that when there is such urgent need for men here, that our ranks should be thinned for foreign service. The American Church is old enough now to raise her own missionaries. Our Br. Columbia brethren are loudly calling Mr. Ross, of Carmam, to go to Chilliwack, and ow-

ing to the state of his wife's health he is likely to go. He has done good service in Southern Manitoba, and his removal will be a great loss. He is clerk of the Rock Lake Presbytery, and of the Synod. Mr. Townsend, of Manitou, is compelled to go away for rest. His congregation is offering to deal generously with him. Mr. Lewis McIntyre, a young man from Scotland, has been appointed to Cartwright, and Mr. MacGillivray, of Goderich, is busy at Elkhorn. Two or three ministers from Ontario have offered to help us for a few months; we could place twenty permanently at once. Unless we secure suitable men for our work, we must be prepared to lose our present vantage ground. Glenboro and Clegg have secured money for church-building. A day's canvass settled a church for MacGregor. The disastrous fire at Deloraine may check operations for a time. Virden builds stone, and Morden started to raise \$750 to remove its mortgage, and got \$1,400. The balance goes to build a manse. The mortgage-paying epidemic spread to Mountain City, and the congregation there will soon be free. At Prince Albert, Battleford, Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, the people are suffering the lack of a market, and unless railways reach them soon, some of the settlements must be broken up. Dr. Jardine is alone this winter, and has charge of two congregations, and besides acting as principal of the Nesbit Academy. The Academy has secured a most efficient music teacher. The Icelandic work is progressing satisfactorily, and a congregation is to be organized at once. A colony of 120 families, south of Glenboro, is shortly to be visited by the Icelandic missionary. So far no suitable missionary has been secured for the Scandinavians. A Gaelic-speaking missionary is expected from Scotland for the Crofters, Pelican Lake. Evangelistic services have been held by pastors, assisted by neighboring ministers at several points and with gratifying results. Work has been resumed at the mines at Anthracite, and the mining force is larger than ever. Explorer and engineer Ogilvie has just returned from the Yukon, and says that the gold region is forty-five miles inside the British line, and the men for 200 miles can wash out \$10 per day anywhere. He reports the oil lands as being in area, tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of square miles. Shall the Church follow her sons to the far north in their quest for wealth?

The Church of Scotland has got her first deaconess in Lady Grisell Baillie. She was publicly set apart to the office in Bowden Church on Sabbath week. So far as we know, Lady Grisell is not only the first deaconess of the Church of Scotland, but the first in any of the Churches of these countries. Two other ladies have applied to the Session of St. Cuthbert's, asking to be set apart to the same office.