

## SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The name of 'RAICES,' the original founder of Sunday Schools, will be handed down to posterity, with the approbation of every genuine philanthropist, as one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. The beneficial effects which Sunday Schools have even already produced upon the state and character of individuals, their favorable influence upon the moral character of Society generally, and their obvious tendency to advance the interests of religion, are beyond all calculation; and require only to be duly considered to challenge the warm and hearty approbation, and concurrence, of every friend of morality and of religion. In these humble nurseries of piety, many apparently hopeless children have been instructed to read the Holy Scriptures, they have been kindly led from the paths of ignorance and of vice, to the knowledge of God, and of his truth; and have been made wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Many have been the accessions made to the various churches from these christian seminaries; and among the most pious, zealous, and useful Missionaries of the cross, are found many, whose first religious impressions were received, and whose principles and characters were formed, in a Sunday School. Members of the different churches in this City, while they have read with much pleasure the accounts published of the labours, and of the success of their Christian brethren in other parts, have not been altogether idle spectators of their operations. Schools in connexion with the Established Church, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, and the Wesleyan Methodists, have for some years past been in operation; and there is just cause to believe that their labours have not been in vain.

The modesty of the persons concerned in managing these institutions, has no doubt, been one reason, why they have abstained from offering themselves more frequently to the notice of the public; and with a pure intention they have preferred, to pursue in a retiring manner, the noiseless and unostentatious tenor of their way.

While we do honor to their motives, we beg leave to say, that as these Schools are undertaken with the most laudable and pure intentions, and as they must have an important bearing and influence, at least, upon the moral character of Society; so they demand the attention and countenance of the public: there can therefore be no impropriety in giving the public to know their wants, their operations, and their progress. Under an impression that it would subserv the interests of these Schools, and that it would have a tendency to awaken the public mind to a sense of their importance, we requested from the Superintendants of the different Schools, a statement of each, for the purpose of laying it before the public. With this request the Superintendants of the Presbyterian, the Baptist, and the Methodist Schools have kindly complied, and their respective statements are accordingly submitted. The Superintendant of the School attached to the Established Church, would have done the same, but as it is intended shortly to have an examination of that School, the parties concerned prefer to wait till the examination shall have taken place, and then to report more fully.

The statements now given, will show, that the aggregate number of children in attendance in the three schools above named is 470 Scholars, and 65 Teachers, employed.

We now urge this important subject, on the attention of all parents, and especially such as are not well able to pay for the instruction of their children. Places, comfortable for both winter and summer are furnished for the accommodation of the children, and Teachers voluntarily and gratuitously, are in attendance to instruct them. The diversity of the

Schools is such, as to remove all reasonable objection on the score of a difference in religious opinions. If, with this free and unbiassed choice before them, parents should still neglect to send their children, then it will be incumbent upon them to examine what reason they can assign for such neglect, when they come to stand before the Judge of the quick and dead, to render an account of the manner in which they have improved their time and opportunities.

As Sunday School instruction is one of the most noble of charities, and as the purchase of books for the children, is the only item of expense attending it; those persons whom Providence has entrusted with the means, will do well to contribute less or more towards this object.

A full and constant supply of active zealous Teachers, is indispensable to the efficiency of Sunday Schools; every thing may be said to depend upon their punctuality and activity.

The labours of the Teachers are arduous; and those who discharge this duty faithfully, are worthy of great honour. Young persons of both sexes, who are competent to the work, should eagerly embrace the opportunity which Sunday Schools offer, of contributing their mite towards the advancement of so good a cause.

If then, parents and children,—persons who possess means, and those who have talents, all concur—in one common object,—the instruction of the rising generation; a glorious day shall arise upon our already highly favoured land; knowledge, and virtue, and piety, shall go hand in hand; "*our sons will be like plants grown up in their youth; and our daughters will be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.*"

## PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOL.

In the Presbyterian Sabbath School during the winter season, the average number in attendance is about 40. In summer the pupils sometimes amount to 80. At present there are from 60 to 70, say from 25 to 30 Boys, and from 35 to 40 Girls.—These are under the superintendance of eight Teachers, viz. ANOUS M'KENZIE, Esq. (one of the Elders of the Scotch Church)—Messrs. P. DUFF, DUNN, ANDERSON and C. GIBB. Misses ANN CAMERON, MARY CAMERON and ELIZA CLARKE.—The regularity, behaviour, attention and cleanliness of the pupils are, upon the whole, pleasing and satisfactory.

Although the Teachers would not assert that a total and radical change has been produced on any of their youthful charge,—though they are not conscious of having been, as yet, the honored instruments, in the hand of the Holy Ghost, of turning any of their Scholars from darkness to light—from sin and Satan to God—yet they trust their labour has not been altogether in vain. They would not, therefore, despond—neither would they, having put their hand to the plough, draw back. Behold the husbandman, who waiteth for the precious fruits of the earth till he receive the early, and the latter rain,—and learn from him "not to weary in well doing." Perhaps even now some of the good seed is beginning to vegetate in some lowly spots of the little enclosure, although for a time it may remain concealed among the rank weeds with which it is almost choked. Perhaps you smothered sigh was the sigh of incipient sorrow for sin; that hidden tear was the hidden tear of contrition.—But should the teachers never be the means of emancipating even one slave of Satan from spiritual thralldom, still they have many encouragements to persevere in this labour of love—even the consideration of the moral influence of Sabbath School instruction on the tone of youthful feeling, is more than sufficient to outweigh every discouragement.

## BAPTIST SABBATH SCHOOL.

Having been impressed with a deep concern for the welfare of the rising race, and being aware that the Sabbath School institution possesses advantages far above any other for instilling into the minds of children those principles, which, under the operation of the Spirit of God; will most effect-

ually preserve from sin, and form their young and tender minds for usefulness in the Church of Christ, the Baptist Church in this City has had a Sabbath School in operation for several years past. It has progressed during its establishment, with a varied degree of success. At times the patience and perseverance of the few who undertook the voluntary task of teaching, have been put to the severest test; in beholding the apathy and carelessness manifested in parents not availing themselves of the opportunity afforded of having their children instructed, and also in beholding but little fruit of their labours among the children themselves. The average attendance of children did not for several years amount to more than 60, and of teachers 6.

But in consequence of vigorous efforts made during the month of December last, and the beginning of the present year, by the female members of the Church, and others in procuring and fixing clothing for the children of the poor who were previously unprovided for, a very considerable increase has taken place, and which bids fair to be of a permanent character: the number of children in attendance every Sabbath, has for several months past averaged 160. The number of teachers has also proportionally increased, and may be reckoned at 21 in constant attendance.

The present prospect in regard to the school is very encouraging, the pleasing attention to the Scripture exercises of the Bible classes, added to the anxious desire to commit to memory valuable portions of the word of God, on the part of many of the children, will, it is confidently hoped, through the influence of the Holy Spirit of God, produce a happy change in many of their minds, fit them for an important and useful stand in the church of Christ on earth, and eventually for an everlasting inheritance in glory.

Connected with the school is a circulating library, at present containing 63 volumes of well written evangelical works; highly calculated from their interesting character, to promote a spirit of reading among the children; and from their religious tendency, it is fervently desired, may be found useful to them in directing their minds to the Saviour of Sinners.

## WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

This Sunday School has been in operation for several years. The conductors and teachers, have had to contend with the discouragements incident to such institutions, arising chiefly from the versatility of children, and the want of proper attention and interest in parents; but they hope and trust that these difficulties are now in a good degree overcome, and they congratulate themselves that its present state and prospects, are upon the whole, more favourable than they were at any former period.

The number now on the Books is 246, the attendance last Sabbath was 170, of which 67 are boys, and 103 girls, with 8 male, and 16 female teachers, in all 24. The teachers, upon whose capacity, diligence, and punctuality, the efficiency of the School depends, appear to be well qualified, and have entered heartily into the spirit of the work, and they have manifested a good degree of zeal for the benefit of the children.

Several of the teachers were formerly pupils in the School, and they now avail themselves of the knowledge and experience acquired therein. Six of the former pupils give manifest evidence of a work of grace upon their hearts, and are now members of the Wesleyan Society. Although the measure of success has not hitherto equalled the wishes of the conductors, yet, they find abundant cause of gratitude to God, for the good which has been effected. In connexion with this School, a Sunday School was opened on Sunday last, in the new Wesleyan Chapel in the adjoining Parish of Portland. The members then present were 70, and twelve teachers, with a pleasing prospect of an increase of Scholars, and teachers also, if required. With these encouraging circumstances before them, the conductors and teachers of this School, pledge themselves anew to the work; they desire to thank God, and to take courage, and in the name of the Lord, and in dependence upon him, to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in this work of the Lord, forasmuch as they know that their labour shall not be in vain in Him.