

consequently been awarded the position of No. 1.

We remember the time—for it is only a few years back—when the Church of Scotland in Halifax had an Association of its own, composed of five schools, and through whose agency the united charge of Richmond and North West Arm has been added to our list of congregations. If it has an existence now, we are not aware of it; at any rate, it has ceased to meet as an organization. It is to be regretted that a Society so useful to the Church should be allowed to suspend operations, for the essays read and friendly discussions at its regular meetings, were a source of much profit to individual teachers, and the mission work accomplished by its members has certainly given the Church a name and an influence in parts that had been destitute of ordinances.

We notice that there is in connection with our Church in Montreal, a similar Association, whose seventeenth annual meeting was held in St. Paul's Church School room on the evening of the 2nd March, with a very large attendance. Dr. Murray, the President of the Association, occupied the chair, and instructive addresses were delivered by the Rev. Geo. H. Wells, of the American Church, Rev. J. F. Stephenson, Congregational, and Rev. J. S. Black, of Erskine Church. The choir of St. Paul's Church, under the direction of Mr. Davies, supplied appropriate music, which was rendered in such a way as contributed very much to the interest of the occasion. The report was read by Mr. Alex. Stewart, the Secretary. It stated the number of schools under the auspices of the Association to be seven in number, namely, St. Andrew's, St. Paul's, St. Gabriel's, St. Matthew's, St. Mark's, Victoria, East-End. The number of teachers in these schools is 158, and of scholars 1186. There are 2980 volumes in their libraries, and the aggregate of collections for missionary purposes last year was \$543.72. This Association was first formed on 5th April, 1858. At the close of its first year it had only four schools, 61 teachers, and 240 scholars on the Roll.

A PLEA FOR CHARITY.

The Rev. Mr. Macrae, in concluding a recent lecture in his own church (new St. Stephen's, N. B.), made the following remarks:

As Protestants, we occupy a position similar to that of the party calling itself by the name of Paul, at Corinth. We are toward our less enlightened brethren in the community around us, as were they toward their less enlightened brethren. We are free from many things which we deem idle, even hurtful, superstitions. Against these we protest. But remember that simply to protest against error is not necessarily to be reverential toward truth. We may denounce the wrong without practising the right. Protesting as such is merely a negative thing. There must be, also, positive principle, humility, reverence for truth and God, love to man; else by merely protesting, we are creating a desert where before there was growth of some sort. And further, guard against the spirit of mockery. Ridicule has been termed the test of truth; but it may be carried too far. Ridicule may rouse to inquiry, but, also, it may excite hatred and burning indignation. Not by ridicule was the power of the gospel extended of old. Not by sarcasm are the drowning rescued or the wounded healed. Against doctrine tending to immorality of conduct all weapons are lawful. Against scruples of conscience, doctrinal errors, forms and ceremonies, let not the weapons of ridicule be directed. Let Paul's tenderness be our example. Life is too short for any one to succeed in the vain attempt to bring all to one mind about forms of belief, and scruples of conscience, and systems of worship; but the very meaning of life for man is to manifest the spirit of love to God and his fellows. That spirit can operate under endlessly diversified conditions and circumstances. That light can be kindled on many a hearth, and illuminate much strange confusion and darkness. It is the source of order, the bond of unity, the fountain of strength, the peace of the universe, the heaven of the Christian. Let us strive to acquire clearness of vision, enlightenment, "knowledge." We cannot acquire too much. *The field*, in this sense, also, is *the world*. Let us scale the heights of all error and look out