

forget the Church of our sires. Let our children, and our children's children, and through them the remotest generations, be taught to revere, though they may never see the spot where the Parish Kirk stands amidst the circumjacent graves, where the Gospel is preached in all its primitive force and purity, where no lordly pew-renter may jostle his humbler brother, and where, in sunshine and in storm, the shade of our National Zion still falls upon, still hallows and protects, the green turf which adorns the last resting place of our fathers.

### CHURCH AT HOME.

#### Collection for the Education Scheme.

There are at present 181 Schools maintained by the Assembly's Education Committee, attended by nearly twenty thousand children. Nearly two thousand of this number are Sabbath Scholars, who, being engaged in labour during six days out of the seven, are unable to attend the week-day School. Of these Schools 120 are situated in the Highlands and Islands, in districts so far removed from the Parochial Schools, that, but for the exertions of the Committee, the young would be entirely unprovided with the means of education.

The sum collected from year to year, for the maintenance of the Schools, is so administered as to draw forth local assistance in one form or another. In the majority of cases, the School-house, Dwelling-house, and a small croft, are provided by the local proprietor, the Committee paying the Teacher's salary. The yearly amount expended out of the Education Fund does not much exceed £1000, the education of each child thus costing the Committee little more than 4s. per annum! It would be difficult for any benevolent society in the country to shew so large an amount of good accomplished at so small an outlay.

In addition to the maintenance of these Schools, the Committee superintend two Normal Seminaries, in which Male and Female Teachers are trained. These Institutions are now nearly self-supporting, but, by agreement with Government, the Committee are bound to pay to them £500 per annum—all surplus income being devoted to their improvement and extension.

These facts suffice to shew the large amount of good which is accomplished by the efforts of the Education Committee; and yet, notwithstanding the magnitude and importance of the work in which they are engaged, they regret to say that the income of the Scheme has, during the last few years, fallen short of the expenditure. The stability of the Scheme is entirely dependent on the annual contributions; and the Committee earnestly trust that the Members of the Church will manifest their sense of the importance of maintaining and extending them by their liberality on this the annual collection. There are still districts entirely destitute of the means of education, and very many more where the education might be improved had the Committee larger means at their disposal.

This is the oldest of the Church Schemes, and is in its very nature so directly beneficial to the country at large, that the Committee confidently anticipate a more than ordinary effort on its behalf. An increase of the in-

come of the Scheme to the amount of £600 or £700 would relieve the Committee entirely from their difficulties, and enable them to increase the efficiency of their whole School Establishment.

The money asked is asked only to be returned again to the country in the form most likely to benefit both the temporal and spiritual well being of the people—in the bestowal of a sound, practical, and religious education. In no district of Scotland can such education be of more importance than in the Highlands and Islands. The same causes which prevent the access of the young to the Parish Schools, frequently debar the old from regular attendance on the services of the sanctuary, and render it thus the more important that they should be enabled for themselves to approach the oracles of God. May we not say, then, when we look to what has been done, and is now doing to extend education in such localities, that, through the exertions of the Committee under the Blessings of Almighty God, many an understanding that would otherwise have remained in darkness, has been brought to the knowledge of the truth, and that many a home in these far-off solitudes has been cheered by hearing, from the lips of its children, the glad tidings of salvation, as they read to eager listeners some lesson from the Word of God? Can any Christian, thankful for his own means of religious instruction, better express his gratitude to God than by aiding in extending these to others dwelling in districts less favoured than that in which his lot has been cast? Can any lover of his country, who desires the maintenance of the well-earned character of his countrymen for intelligence and integrity, more surely contribute to that object, than by aiding the Committee in their exertions to maintain and extend the Scheme which the Church has confided to their care?

In name, and by appointment of the Committee,

JOHN COOK, D.D., HADDINGTON.  
Convener.

#### Missionary Agency in large Cities.

The Gospel is now preached upon the streets—freely proclaimed to perishing men on unconsecrated ground,—earnest, faithful missionaries carrying from door to door, and from group to group, the glad tidings of great joy; while Scripture-readers are communicating to the vilest and most wretched those words which are spirit and which are life. In the metropolis, for instance, with its vast hordes of out-casts, and its miserable "rookeries," and almost inaccessible moral wastes, there are now of city missionaries no fewer than 339, the operations of the Mission involving an annual expenditure of fully £30,000; its agents, during last year, having paid 1,528,162 visits to the degraded and the fallen of the capital; portions of Scripture having been read on 478,049 different occasions; 80,000 Roman Catholics, or more than half the population of Rome itself, having been visited; free access having been found to 962 Jewish families—"a number as large, probably, as the entire Jewish population of Jerusalem;" 2,109,375 tracts having been issued during the year; 11,273 children, as has been already stated sent to school; drunkards having been reclaimed, and many hundreds of the fallen and the wretched won back to the paths of virtue or restored from

dens of infamy to the society of their friends. In such cities as Edinburgh and Glasgow a similar agency is at work in those hidden scenes of misery, whose very existence is unknown to thousands and tens of thousands who traverse their spacious streets. Besides the city missionaries, Scripture-readers are employed in London to a very large extent, 122 persons being thus engaged, and the annual expenditure of the associations under whose auspices their labours are conducted, amounting to fully £10,000. Such agencies are employed in many other of our large towns—ministers of overgrown parishes finding their aid invaluable in prosecuting their duties towards those whose wretchedness and lost condition have such claims upon their benevolent and faithful labours. In the case of some, sheer hopelessness of success operates to their entire neglect of the multitudes of the perishing which form the great bulk of the population of their parishes, but all men of any nerve and earnestness are now striving to cope with the mighty evils which, too long unheeded, have swollen to such frightful magnitude. In England high dignitaries of the Church are unbending, and are inducing it consistent with their truest dignity to preach the Gospel to the poor, and to carry the balm of Gilead to those who know not the plague of their own souls. Such men as the Bishop of Lincoln and Dr. McNeill have been proclaiming the blessed tidings of mercy to the fallen and the lost, arrested as these have been by the unwonted sound that has reached their ears on the public street, while the most eminent preachers in England have been conducting those services in Exeter Hall which have been so unceremoniously brought to a close. An "Open-air Mission," during the past year, held in London no fewer than 1030 services. Much has been done in this way likewise, in such towns as Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; and while some, as in Aberdeen and Dundee, have been trying the experiment of ragged churches, others, like the minister of the Barony in Glasgow, have been filling existing churches to the door with hearers clad in their ordinary work-day habiliments. All this to our view is well, for, unless we read Scripture wrongly, it is apostolic. This is the true apostolical succession—this arduous in doing good and saving souls. This is the only worthy motto of an apostolic life, "If by any means, I may save some." Every one may not be doing just what is best, but we see the efforts of all who are doing the best which is in their power. All portions of the Christian Church are happily on the alert in this great and first service of Christian men; and, like the missionaries to the heathen, who forget their little differences when they stand arrayed against the mighty host of the alienated and the perishing, the ministers of our Churches, in the large cities of the empire, find their distance from each other narrowed when they contemplate the mighty work which lies before them to accomplish. We do not then undervalue the efforts of the brethren in other Churches, while we refer more particularly to the labours which are now undertaken by the ministers and members of our own. We would invite our readers to go back upon the article in our April number for information regarding the great work which is going on in Glasgow under the auspices of our Church. There the Free and United Presbyterian Churches have been making special exertions, and all united are by no means enough to overtake the spiritual wants of that teeming