

"This general duty, however, assumes a special form, when we regard ourselves as connected with the Church of Scotland. In addition to its being the 'fairest daughter of the Reformation,' we look to it as the Church of our education, our convictions, and our affections. The soundness of her doctrines, her efforts in promoting Secular and Religious education, together with her heroic contendings for the cause of conscience and of Christ, are known over the world. We feel, therefore, that for the extension of her blessings, she has strong claims on those who have been benefited by her instrumentality.

"The Church in Kingston is the only one she has in possession at present in this island. Considering, therefore, our position and responsibility, we are anxious that an effort, hearty and energetic, should be made for the extension of the interests of the Church of Scotland. This we desire to carry out, by attempting the establishment of churches and schools in different localities through this island.

"In order that this object may be effected, we have taken upon us to recommend the formation of a Lay Association, to be composed of individuals belonging to our Church, and others favourable to our cause. The operation of this Association would be twofold,—first, initiating a correspondence with certain localities as to the expediency or possibility of erecting churches therein,—second, representing to the Parent Church the claims and capacities of each locality. The business of the Association, we would suggest, should be managed by a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Committee; while the expenses, incidental to its operation, would be defrayed by each member subscribing four shillings per annum as a term of admission.

"Such, then, is the plan we venture to recommend. We urge it on all, particularly the young as a great, and, we believe, a delightful duty. *From a knowledge of the result of a similar Association in Canada, we have great hopes that, under the blessing of God, this movement will be instrumental in effecting much good.* It would enlist individual energy, and would stir up even greater interest for our Church, sanctified, as it is to us all, as the monument of our Father's spiritual contendings, and the scene of our own baptismal dedication.

"Independent of the general good which would be thus effected, a particular and palpable one may be expected to arise. This would be the establishment of a Presbytery. Until more congregations exist, and ministers be appointed, this great feature of Presbyterianism cannot be displayed.

"In connexion with that happy event, moreover, many advantages would arise. Ecclesiastical matters could then be conducted according to Presbyterian order. Vacancies produced by sickness would be supplied, and there could be shown to others what are the principles and procedure characteristic of Presbyterianism. Above all we connect with the establishment of a Presbytery the training of a native ministry,—an agency which, considering the probable destiny of this island, would, we are persuaded, be absolutely necessary for perpetuating the interests and religion of the Church of Scotland in this Colony.

"By order of Session,

"J. RADCLIFFE, Moderator."  
*Home and Foreign Record.*

#### FORMATION OF LAY ASSOCIATIONS.

If the vacant Presbyterian congregations throughout this Province expect and desire to be supplied with the ordinances of Religion and the services of fixed pastors, it is very evident that they must exert themselves, and not only make their necessities known in the proper quarter, but also make arrangements for raising funds for the support of the ministry. We know how difficult, we might almost say impossible, it is to keep alive anything like an active and vigorous ecclesiastical organization in scattered congregations in a new country, without the presence and assistance of the ministers of the Gospel. Still we think that intelligent and pious laymen might do something, and ought to do something to carry on this good work. We hope that our friends in Canada are not giving us credit for greater good than has actually been accomplished. In publishing the proceedings of the meeting of the friends of the Church of Scotland at Pictou in June last, the *Montreal Presbyterian* mentions it as a gratifying fact that the Lay Association of Halifax is exerting itself strenuously for the moral welfare of the adherents of our Church in Nova-Scotia.—*Halifax Guardian.*

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.—In the present enfeebled state of the Church, with so many vacant congregations soliciting assistance, and several young men offering themselves as candidates for the Sacred Ministry, it is very evident that some means must soon be devised for superintending and directing their education and Theological studies. There may be, and there certainly are, many difficulties in the way in attempting to found a Theological Seminary with limited resources in a new country. Other denominations have felt those difficulties as well as ourselves. But they have grappled with them, and to a certain extent have surmounted them. And with combined energy, liberality, and perseverance, it is impossible to foresee what may be accomplished. Friends will spring up, perhaps, where they were least expected. Assistance will be obtained from the parent Church as well as in the provinces. Every student educated in the seminary will in course of time become a zealous advocate for the Institution, and coming generations will reap the blessed fruits of our humble and self-denying labours. This is pre-eminently a work of faith and labour of love, and, if we engage in it in humble reliance upon the Divine assistance and blessing, the Lord our God will assuredly prosper our zealous endeavours in carrying on such an important and useful undertaking.—*Halifax Guardian.*

## CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

### HOME MISSION.

We find in the *Home and Foreign Record of the Church of Scotland* for September an account of the Home Mission Scheme, which is very satisfactory and indicates the existence of a healthy state of matters in the Church. The object of the Scheme is to afford the ministrations of the Gospel to the inhabitants of destitute localities, who may be unable themselves to support a minister. The Committee state that 124 places of worship had been supported chiefly from their friends. They give a most encouraging account of the progress of the Glasgow Building Society Churches (of all the steps relative to which we have endeavoured to present a sketch). We extract the following from the Report of the Committee.

As is well known, the main object to which the funds of the Home Mission are directed is the support of a Christian ministry in localities of our land which would otherwise remain comparatively destitute of so unspeakable a blessing. Both in town and country there are many such localities lying quite beyond the reach of the ordinary parochial machinery of the Church, and solely, or, at least, chiefly indebted to the exertions of the Committee for the ordinances of Religion which the people now so thankfully enjoy. And the extent to which the labours of our National Church in this direction have

already been blessed, cannot fail to be peculiarly gratifying to all interested in the advancement of the Truth, and in the welfare of their country. As will be found more fully detailed in the Report submitted by the Committee to last Assembly, pecuniary grants were voted, and in course of payment, during the past year, in aid of no fewer than 57 unendowed churches, and 56 missionary stations, besides the allowances voted towards the supply of ordinances in nine of the recently recovered chapels in Glasgow, and towards the support of the missionaries at two preaching stations in Caithness; so that there were in all 124 places of worship supported chiefly out of the funds of the Scheme, and whose very existence depends upon its efficient maintenance. The actual success which has resulted from the bestowal of these grants in the gradual and steady increase in the numbers of the congregations, and of the communicants attending such places of worship, may be judged of from the instances cited in the same Report, to which reference is made. The Committee would further refer to the cases of which short reports are given in the present number of the *Missionary Record*, as evidencing the growing prosperity of the congregations assisted by the Committee.

But, besides the more general facts now adverted to, a peculiar measure of success may be said to have attended the labours of the Committee during the past year in reference to the chapels recently recovered to the Church in Glasgow and other localities. Of the former, 15 in number, no fewer than 9 were opened in the course of last autumn,—the Committee having voted towards the support of each of the ministers or missionaries, who might be appointed to such chapels, the sum of L.50 for the first year. The results of this arrangement have exceeded the most sanguine expectations. As is well known, the congregations formerly worshipping in these chapels were alienated, divided, and, in some instances, entirely dispersed; but within little more than twelve months large congregations have been gathered together and formed anew; and in three of them, the numbers were so considerable, and the circumstances otherwise so favourable, that the Presbytery, on the earnest call of the people, felt themselves fully warranted in ordaining and inducting ministers to these charges. Other congregations are steadily advancing to a similar position.

The Committee think it due to the cause entrusted to their care, to enter somewhat into detail in reference to the past and present position of two of these lately recovered chapels,—the one in the southern part of St. George's parish, Glasgow, and the other at Newhaven in the parish of North Leith,—as showing more prominently the working of the Scheme—the signal success by which it has been attended—and the great benefits which it has thereby conferred, mainly upon those classes whose best interests it was originated to advance and secure. In the former case, St. Peter's Church, Glasgow, possession of the chapel was retained by the parties who seceded from the Church till the beginning of last year, when the minister, along with his congregation, retired to another place of worship. After having been closed for several months the chapel was re-opened by the Presbytery under the auspices of the Committee, on 24th June, 1849, when a zealous and talented probationer of the Church was appointed to labour in the district, with a view to form the nucleus of a congregation; and such, under the Divine blessing, was the success attending his labours, that in six months a congregation of about 300 assembled regularly for worship in the chapel. On their unanimous call the probationer, Mr. Cochrane, was ordained and inducted as minister of the chapel on 26th December last; and since then the congregation has been steadily and rapidly increasing. The number of sittings let for the current half-year is 660, and the average attendance in the afternoon is about 800. The number of communicants at the last dispensation of the Sacrament was nearly 400,