

possible, and ordaining Elders where it is practicable. In some cases loss has been sustained by a want of timely attention to these things. Indeed, in the larger Presbyteries, it is a question whether a general or travelling Missionary might not be advantageously employed in visiting stations, organizing, and dispensing the sealing ordinances.

2. The Committee would suggest the desirableness of the Synod soon giving its attention to the re-arrangement of the bounds of Presbyteries.

3. The Committee would suggest to the Synod, the propriety of recommending to Presbyteries to raise the allowance hitherto given to students employed as missionaries. Hitherto the allowance has been £35 with board during the summer vacation. The Committee agree in thinking that £30 would be now little enough for the students. The Committee also would suggest to the Synod to recommend to Presbyteries to transact with congregations on the one hand, and with Missionaries on the other, so as to save them from any loss, and from being placed in an awkward, and unpleasant position.

4. The Committee, *adverting to the circumstance that at the meetings of committee some of the more distant Presbyteries are scarcely over represented*, would suggest that Presbyteries should consider it their duty to defray, out of their Home Mission Fund, or otherwise, the expenses of those whom they may depute to appear for them at the meeting of the Committee, so that every Presbytery may be represented.

5. The Committee recommend that, while correspondence should still be kept up with the view of obtaining Preachers from the parent churches, attention should specially be given to the seeking out of young men for our own College, which must be regarded as essentially connected with the right cultivation of our Home Mission Field. With God's blessing, in this institution, and with his blessing on the labors of his servants throughout the church, may we not look for the time, when the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad, and when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose?

W. RAIT, Convener.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RUXTON MISSION, PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF SYNOD IN LONDON, JUNE 16TH, 1856.

In presenting the Sixth Annual Report, of the Ruxton Mission to the Synod, we would, first of all, acknowledge with thankfulness our indebtedness to Almighty God, for the measure of success, which has attended our labours during the past year, and for the support graciously vouchsafed to us, in the midst of many trying difficulties. The year that is just passed has been one of great pecuniary embarrassment to the infant settlement, where the mission is located; this has prevented the settlers from giving that cordial support to our operations, which they otherwise would have done.

Most of them came into the place about five years ago without any means, and not having a sufficient quantity of land opened to do more than support their families; and, some who came in later, not even that, they have not been able to contribute much, still they have done something; a beginning has been made to support the ordinances of religion, and to educate their children. The settlement at Ruxton in temporal matters, has been self-supporting since its beginning; in the early part of last year, they determined to do something in spiritual matters.—It was resolved that the Church should contribute to all the schemes of the Synod, besides taking up a collection every Sabbath; also, that the scholars attending the missionary schools, should pay a small sum towards the support of the teach-

ers. The rate was graduated according to the branches taught, and was somewhat higher than what is charged in the Government schools; but one half less than what is required in Grammar Schools. It was also mentioned that those, who could not pay, would be taught free, so that all the children might have the benefit of a good school; we wished to see none go without an education, but we wished to give an opportunity to such, as were able and willing to pay for the education of their children, to do so.

The result has been most gratifying, notwithstanding the pressure felt by the settlers during the past year. Of those families who have sent to both schools, more than one-half have paid something, one-fifth have paid the whole rate bill charged, and only twenty-two have paid nothing. The Synodical and Sabbath-day collections, have been regularly taken up in the Church. The whole amount raised, from both church and schools, is about *seventy pounds*.

In consequence of charging a small rate bill, the school has not been so much crowded during the last year, as it was during the two preceding years. A number of the children having gone to two district schools, on the North and West side of the settlement. There are two schools at the Mission, a male and female. The female school was established last year, for the purpose of teaching the girls plain sewing, and those who might be willing to pay for it, the higher branches of a female education. In this department, we hope soon, to have some well trained female teachers. In the male school besides the common branches of an English education, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics are taught. In both, the Shorter Catechism is used, and the Bible is taught as a religious exercise. One of the difficulties, we have had to contend with, in this branch of the missionary operations, is the frequent change of teachers. It is only five years since the schools have been opened, yet the teachers have been changed ten times, and although all the teachers, with one or two exceptions have been good, yet the frequent change has had a paralyzing effect on the efficiency of the schools. Pupils have not made the same progress, that they otherwise would have done. The teachers who have been hitherto employed, have mostly been *students*, who were under the necessity of leaving every six months, for the purpose of attending classes in the College. It would add much to the efficiency of this branch of our missionary operations, to have permanent teachers. We trust that, ere long, we shall be able to obtain them. The number enrolled, in both schools, during the past year, has been *one hundred and thirty*, and the average attendance *fifty-eight*. There are two classes,—one in Latin and the other in Greek; those reading Greek will be ready to enter College next November. The Sabbath-school has been well attended during the past year, there are at present *one hundred and twelve* on the roll, and the average attendance is *fifty-two*. We still feel the want of permanent teachers in this department, although we are beginning to supply the deficiency in some measures by the aid of scholars who have received instruction in the Sabbath-school. The Juvenile Missionary Society, organized twelve months ago, by the scholars, has been regularly kept up. At the Anniversary in February last, on opening the missionary box, it was found to contain *eighteen dollars*, which was voted by the scholars to the Calabar Mission, on the Coast of Africa. The Sabbath-school, and Congregational libraries have received, each a valuable donation of books from friends in Glasgow, through the personal exertions of Dr. and Mrs. Willis, *one hundred* volumes have been added to the Sabbath School, and *seventy-five* to the Congregational Library. The attendance at Church is about the same as last year, varying from *one hundred and fifty to two hundred* according to the state of the roads and weather.

We have had two communion seasons since our last report—one in July, and one in March. On these occasions, six members were added, two on certificates, and four by examination. The number on the communion roll is *fifty*. One of these was a young woman, who had been educated at the Mission School, and for many years was a pupil at the sabbath school. She was the first, that has been received into the Church, from the Mission School. Her knowledge of the scriptures was clear, and she gave satisfactory evidence of her having experienced a saving change. This is only the first fruits, but we trust it will be followed by an abundant harvest. The Mission is only in its infant state, still it is an object of peculiar interest, and well calculated to call forth the good wishes of our own Church, and of all who feel an interest in the social and moral improvement of a long neglected and deeply injured race. It is only the day of small things, but we have good reason to thank God and take courage, for the measure of success, which has already attended our efforts. The school connected with the mission is progressing; and we trust the voice of its pupils, will one day be heard to advantage, from one end of the Province to the other. Nay, the time we hope may not be far distant, when they will vie with other, and more highly favoured lands, in carrying the lamp of eternal truth, and planting the cross on the remotest shores of Africa. Although I do not pretend to lift the veil, which hides futurity from the eye of mortals, yet I do most solemnly believe that, when Ethiopia stretches forth her hands to God, her own sons will be the honoured instruments, in the hands of God in carrying religion and civilization to their benighted countrymen. Encouraged by the past, we would look for greater triumphs in future, but above all we would look for the *Divine blessing*, without which a *solemn* mockery awaits all our efforts.

W. M. KING.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee on the State of Religion regret to report, that they have no statements of much interest to lay before the Synod. They have laboured under the disadvantage which indeed impedes the action of almost all the Committees appointed by the Synod—the difficulty of obtaining a meeting of the members who are scattered over all the Presbyteries of the Church.

In obedience to the instructions of the Synod the Convener prepared a pastoral address which was duly published in the *Record*, with the late Moderator's signature; calling the attention of the Church to the chief points raised in report of last year—and generally to the whole subject of the State of Religion within our borders.

The Convener has not thought it expedient to repeat so soon the queries sent to Ministers, and reported on to the Synod of 1855—and they have felt it the less necessary to prosecute their inquiries, as they have had reason to believe that some of the Presbyteries have undertaken an inspection of the flocks under their care, which must involve an examination into the state of religion—its progress or decline.

The Committee are of opinion, that in ordinary circumstances it will be found best to commit this subject to the conscientious and responsible attention of the Presbyteries of the Church. They would now humbly recommend.

1st. That the Presbyteries of the Church be encouraged to acquaint themselves by visitations, by preaching deputations, and in all other competent ways with the state of religion within their respective bounds, and endeavour after its revival.

2nd. That this Committee on the State of Religion shall have a ministerial member in each Presbytery—whose duty it shall be to collect and prepare information regarding the state of religion within the bounds, which information shall