

nominate zealous individuals to act in that capacity. Wherever this invitation is complied with, the Members of these Committees are requested to solicit contributions to such of the Schemes of the Association, as may meet the approbation of the members of our Church in their respective vicinities, to receive subscriptions to the *Presbyterian*, to exert their influence in extending its circulation, and to communicate the names of young men desirous of studying for the Ministry, and generally such information as they conceive to be of interest or importance. The appointment of one of the Board to act as Secretary and conduct the correspondence with the Central Board is recommended. On behalf of the Association.

JOHN GREENSHIELDS,
Cor. Sec.

Montreal, January, 1849.

SABBATH SCHOOL SOIREE.

The annual soiree of the Sabbath School of the Presbyterian Congregation at Three Rivers in connection with the Church of Scotland, was held on the 27th of December. Though the evening was stormy and unfavourable; yet a goodly number of both parents and children were present on this occasion. After ten, the children with their teachers repaired to the Church, in which they recited various pieces of Sacred Poetry, with great proficiency, and were examined on their knowledge of the Scriptures, and Shorter Catechism; they also evinced some knowledge of the books from the Sabbath School Library which they had read. On the 28th December, in like manner, the children of the Sabbath School at Black River were examined, and gave great satisfaction.

At both places, the parents, children, and friends, were addressed, after the examination, by the Pastor, the Rev. James Thom, as follows.

"My young friends; we have examined you publicly, in your progress in moral and religious knowledge; and it now falls upon me, in justice to yourselves, and your teachers, to express my satisfaction with your appearance, and your proficiency; both with regard to your knowledge of the great Truths of Christianity, your distinct and accurate recitation of select pieces in Sacred Poetry, and the general information which you have acquired from the books in the Library.

"But as man requires advice in every situation of life; and if kings must have their councillors, and mariners their compass to guide them to the wished for haven, much more the young who are unexperienced in the ways of the world. Time and opportunities are precious to youth; and wholesome instructions are invaluable, both with regard to your prosperity in time, and your well being in Eternity. Allow me then to address you by way of advice and counsel.

"Forget not the great end of your creation. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever. Let this be your aim. Have you not read of Moses' counsels to the youth in Israel. They were not so much to remove present evils, or to secure present advantages, as to avert future evils; to point out a course of domestic discipline, and to form wise, virtuous, and intrepid characters in every family in Israel. These lasting counsels of the man of God were never to be forgotten. In all generations they served to promote God's glory, and the chief end of man. In that camp, their temples, and their dwellings, their forgetfulness of them was to be the signal for the departure of God's glory from the land. 'Whither therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'

"Forget not this important question, what do the Scriptures principally teach? Do they not teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man? As you advance in your knowledge of the Book of Life, the Books of God's Creation and Providence will afford additional evidence of the Power and Wisdom of Christ in His Word, the most delightful lessons will be learned from the works of His Almighty hand. But do not read the Bible with indifference, or treat its message with contempt? See what many wise and good men have spoken of this blessed Book. Is it not told of Mr. Locke, that when he was asked by a young gentleman, the easiest and safest way to get a knowledge of Christianity; Read the Scriptures, said he, for they have God for their author, Christ for Salvation; truth without mixture of error, eternal Life for their end.

"Think often on the question, what is God? God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. Here it is answered concisely. But Simonides the Philosopher took many days to consider it; because he had only the light of nature to guide him; but you have the Bible. Assuredly the just notions of God's perfections will elevate your mental faculties, and improve the dispositions of your heart. For example, correct views of the Divine omnipresence, and of God's knowledge of all your thoughts, words and actions, will restrain you from many secret sins, and support you under many strong temptations when far removed from a parent's eye. The eyes of the Lord are to and fro throughout all the earth. The eye of God is upon you. The words of the Patriarch will be in your hearts. 'How can I do this great evil, and sin against God, for thou, O God, seeest me.'

"Form your lives and characters on that of Christ your Redeemer, as drawn by the pen of inspiration in the Gospel. Let the humility of the Son of Man in His Birth keep you from pride; the obedience He yielded to Joseph and Mary his earthly parents preserve you from the sin of disobedience. Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long on the Earth. Let His care and love for little children stimulate you to love one another, and to suppress all anger and jealousy, in your youthful recreations. Let the example of His omnipotence in calming the raging sea, in raising the dead from their graves, by the all potent word 'Lazarus come forth,' in healing the sick, in forgiving sins, in doing good to all, lead you to love and serve Him with all your heart and strength and mind.

"Finally, remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. I should fail in duty to God, and to you, were I to part with you, perhaps never to address you more on a like occasion, without taking notice of this all important question. Evil impressions are readily made, and the counsels that lead you to forgetfulness of the Sabbath coincide with the natural depravity of the heart. But the Sabbath is the Lord's day, by way of eminence and excellency. Because it is holy to the Lord and honourable; yea sacred to His service from the beginning of the world. It will be revered by his people to the end of time. Therefore your behaviour, on this day, ought to be sedate at home, in the Church, at the Sabbath School, and on the way. The whole day is for the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is taken up in works of necessity and mercy. You will easily see the sovereign right of your Creator to this seventh portion of your time. Doth He not give you six days of the week for your own employments? From the holiness of His nature and government, as well as in mercy to man, he challenges an especial right in all your youthful thoughts, words and actions on this holy day.

"Memorable are the sad calamities that have befallen nations, families, and individuals from contempt of this sovereign command. And we know of no place, or people, or country, in which there are not many temptations to the transgression of it. In very many instances, we have known the consequences to be deplorable. We can only mention, at present, the case of a widowed mother in Derbyshire in England who had two sons; the elder sixteen, and the younger thirteen years, who in spite of every remon-

strance went to slide upon the ice at some distance from home. But before they left their mother's house for the fatal spot, they were urged to accompany her to the Church, and the Sabbath School. Yet all was in vain; some evil companions had enticed them away. While engaged in their heedless sport, the ice gave way; for a moment they were seen; for a moment more, they were clasped in each other's arms, and they sank to rise no more. Thus from transgressing the words of an earthly parent, and the commandment of an Almighty Father, who hath said remember the Sabbath, they were launched into eternity.

"Having thus spoken to the youth at considerable length, and as the same observations are applicable to the old, I shall close this address with a few words to parents. The exercises of the Sabbath School are not designed to release them from those natural and solemn obligations, that they owe to God and their children. In general, parents are not insensible to the advantages of a secular education; but the arguments are doubly forcible for religious care and instruction; for unless a foundation be laid in the precepts of Christianity, the moral lessons of Plato and of Plutarch will leave the minds of the rising generation in comparative darkness. If they neglect to teach them the statutes of the Lord, they are forgetful both of their duty and salvation; and having not the promises and blessing of God, cannot expect much comfort or happiness in return, by the gratitude and affection of their children at a dying hour, 'Train up a child in the way in which he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'

THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

HOME MISSION.

In again bringing the claims of this scheme before the members and friends of the Church, the Committee desire gratefully to acknowledge the liberality with which their previous appeals on its behalf have been met; and from the strong and growing conviction which all classes of the community have been brought to feel of the importance of the object to which it is directed, they entertain a lively hope, that the call which they have now to make will be responded to with even increased generosity.

It will be seen from the appendix to the Committee's Report to last General Assembly, that, during the year ending 15th April last, grants were voted under all branches of the scheme,—namely, in aid of the congregations of thirty-six unendowed churches, to the amount of £1520; towards the support of Missionaries at forty-one preaching stations, to the amount of £1495; towards the erection of new Churches, to the amount of £755; and in aid of young men prosecuting their studies with a view to the Ministry, to the amount of £30; in all, £3800. It will also be seen from the account of the treasurer's intromissions, appended to the Report, that for the past year, the entire income of the scheme (including a few small legacies) was £3477 2s 5d; while the grants voted and paid under the several branches of the scheme, and necessary expenses, amounted to £3596 7s 3d, being upwards of £100 beyond the revenue. With reference to the balance appearing in that account at the credit of the Committee, it is proper to explain, that a large portion of it consist of the late Miss Campbell's munificent bequest, specially destined "for Church Extension in the Highlands," and of legacies from other parties, which must be regarded and treated as capital. It must also be kept in view, that out of that balance, the grants current at 15th April last, and now in course of payment, in aid of forty-four unendowed churches, and towards the support of missionaries at fifty-six stations, to the amount of £3242 2s 10d, and other liabilities, fall to be discharged. These explanations are given in order to prevent misapprehension, which might otherwise naturally arise, as to the position of the Committee's funds, and the necessity of liberal contributions to them.

The benefits communicated through the agency of the Home Mission Scheme, are so prominently mani-