

It certainly becomes me to say, that I have many reasons for thankfulness to the Head of the Church. Since my arrival in Halifax I have met with much countenance and encouragement from my brethren in the ministry, and have received many instances of kindness and attachment from our people, in my intercourse with them. For all which, I desire "to thank God, and to take courage."—I am, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BOYD, A. M.
The Rev. Dr. Fowler.

Sabbath School Soiree at Fergus, C. W.

The Sabbath School Soiree in connection with St. Andrew's Church at Fergus, took place lately in the Temperance Hall, which was neatly fitted up for the occasion, decked with evergreens and other devices, and bearing the inscription: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." Over 800 guests, besides Sabbath School Scholars, were present. The Hall was crowded, and was found too small to contain the party comfortably.

Rev. Mr. MacDonell took the chair. The meeting was opened by singing the 100th Psalm. A number of ministers were present and several interesting addresses were delivered on appropriate subjects.

The audience were much indebted to Mr. McIntyre, the Precentor of St. Andrew's church, and his youthful Choir of Sabbath School Scholars, for the correct and pleasing manner in which they sung a variety of hymns.

The cordial thanks of the meeting were proposed by John Watt, Esq. and unanimously given to the speakers, for their kind, able, and christian addresses.

All felt that the season had been an interesting and profitable one. The warm, and brotherly kindness manifested by ministers of various denominations towards the minister, members, and especially the young people of St. Andrew's church, was affecting and was gratefully appreciated and acknowledged by the Chairman for himself and all whom he represented. The catholic and edifying spirit of the meeting was evident to all.

The Chairman took occasion to say that the meeting were altogether indebted to Mr. Todd for having originated and carried through this Sabbath School gathering. That gentleman's persevering exertions had, together with the assistance of the female Teachers of the Sabbath School, led to the successful result of the evening. Such meetings have a beneficial effect. They bring the people together, excite an interest in the work of the Sabbath School, and stimulate to exertions for their maintenance and extension.—*Presbyterian*.

The Twelfth Annual Report of the Lay Association of the Church of Canada for 1858.

The Office-bearers respectfully Report:—That at their first meeting they were called to discharge a melancholy duty, and to humble themselves under the painful dispensation,

which deprived them of one of their chaplains and his congregation of a faithful pastor,—the lamented Rev. Dr. McGill, who for some years had taken a warm interest in the Association, and furthered its objects by his wise counsel.

An appropriate resolution, expressing the views of the Association in relation thereto, was adopted and transmitted to his family.—Subsequently his successor in the pastoral charge of St. Paul's Church, the Rev. W. Smudgrass, was elected to the vacant office.

Proceeding to trace the operations of the Society for the past year, the officers are happy to report that some progress has been made in the work entrusted to them. More might have been accomplished, it is true; but still, considering the limited means at disposal, a considerable amount of good is being done.

PUBLICATION SCHEME.

They report that the *Presbyterian* has been issued monthly during the year, exclusively of a supplement containing a Report of proceedings of Synod, and the 10th volume has been entered upon. The circulation is still 2200, a number of monthly copies by no means commensurate with the number of families adhering to our Church. If fresh efforts were made in the several congregations, its circulation might be widely extended, and we trust that this will be promptly and effectually done.

A new effort was commenced by the Association in April last after mature consideration and consultation with many friends of our Church, and a *Juvenile Presbyterian* issued.—This has been a most successful step, and its progress has been encouraging to its projectors and conductor. It evidently met a want and has been warmly taken up. It is issued monthly, illustrated with wood cuts, at 1s. each per annum when 25 copies are taken, and will at the end of the year (March) form a neat volume of 200 pages. The Church at Home issues a very successful *Juvenile Record*, and it is gratifying that this Canadian *Juvenile* has been so successful. Already it numbers 2000 subscribers in Canada and the Lower Provinces, and bids fair in that respect to eclipse its parent the *Presbyterian*.

The Office-bearers are satisfied that it will prove of service to the Church with which they are connected, by attaching the children of the Church to it and enlisting them in missionary work.

As many congregations and schools have not yet countenanced this effort, the Officers invite them to become subscribers, and confidently believe that in the next Annual Report they will be able to announce the circulation of at least 3000, if not more.

Passing on to a very useful feature in the Association, is

BURSARY SCHEME.

They have to state that this has been maintained for some years, and is believed to be deserving of wide support and countenance.—Two of your bursars were last year settled over pastoral charges. Owing to the enhancement of the necessities of life since this Scheme was instituted, and the amounts of the bursaries given determined, and entertaining the belief that this Scheme presents a very important field of usefulness, the Officers thought it desirable to increase the amounts and the number of the Bursaries, and referred the matter to the consideration of a Committee. In accordance with the report, the Board now recommend that the ensuing Board should be charged with the duty of increasing the amounts of the existing

Bursaries to at least £15 each or upwards, and further suggest that the whole subject, both of the number and amount of Bursaries should during the year receive mature consideration, with a view to placing this Scheme on an even more effective footing. Already it has accomplished good and may yet be much more useful.

One of the Bursaries of the present year of £10 was allotted on the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. Cook, of Quebec, to Mr. Prosper Leger, a native of France, and lately a teacher in the high school of Quebec, who is prosecuting his studies at Queen's College, Kingston, with a view to the ministry of our Church, and who it is trusted, may yet prove of service in the French Mission of our Synod. The other two Bursars are Mr. George Porteous and Mr. James Carmichael. Turning now to

THE RELIEF FUND.

During the year applications have been received from Three Rivers, St. Eustache and Westminister. That of the first named was favorably entertained, and the sum of £10 granted towards the new Church, the only Presbyterian one on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec; and the others were retained under consideration for further enquiry as to their respective merits. The sum of £10 granted in the previous year to the Beechridge congregation, towards repairing and extending their Church, was paid.

FUNDS.

The investment of the Association has been added to during the year. The amount of stock, held in the City Bank by the Association, was £300 or 16 shares of 18 15s. each. To this a bonus of £1 5s. per share was added by the Bank, making the amount £320, and the Association were allowed to subscribe for £80 or 4 shares, of new stock at par.—This was done by the Treasurer, Mr. Morris, on your behalf, and three instalments of £8 each paid in upon it, so that, when the balance of £56 is paid in, the Association will have £400 of stock, yielding £32 per annum, and the shares are now worth 10 per cent or £40 in addition, making the total cash value of the investment £440—a satisfactory position of your affairs. A statement of the ordinary expenditure of the year will be found in the Treasurer's Report, which, with the Publisher's account, of the two papers, is laid upon the table.

An address was adopted by the Officers and laid before the Synod, making certain suggestions, and further requesting their approval of the *Juvenile Presbyterian*. This address having been read and considered, the Synod came to the following encouraging resolution according to your wishes with regard to it—

"The Synod having heard read the address of the Lay Association, thank them for their past exertions and present suggestions for the good of the Church, and, as requested, cordially approve of the publication of the *Juvenile Presbyterian*."

It would be well if an annual statement of the operations of the Association was regularly transmitted to the Synod, and the Officers recommend that this should be done in future.

And now, in conclusion, the Office-bearers, in surrendering the trust into your hands, have only to state that, during the year which has passed away, they have done what they could to advance the interests of the Association and to promote the welfare of our Church, and