

meet which large debt, the Committee are not at present possessed of more than £250 of funds. They have no fear whatever, that the public will allow the loss from this deficiency to fall, either on the excellent Christian men, who have, as instruments, been zealously planting the gospel seed in the hearts of the sequestered Highlanders, or on the committee, who, as almoners of the public bounty, have been directing it into a channel which has so largely conduced to the moral improvement of the country. But the Committee feel relief to that extent merely, would not be at all commensurate with the requirements of the case. The question is, shall the Gaelic Schools be allowed to go down? Seminaries, which have been distinguished by those who know them best, as the schools of Christ—those candles of the Lord which have been blessed as the special instruments of reviving religion in many benighted portions of the Highlands, and which, to human view, cannot be extinguished, without eternal damage to the population of many a glen, where they are now almost the only lights that can penetrate the darkness, and which are hailed by many a faithful pastor, as his most efficient auxiliary in districts beyond the reach of his superintending care,—shall these schools go down?

The Committee can assure the public this embarrassment has arisen from no improper or extravagant expenditure on their part. They did, in consequence of the General Assembly's Schools absorbing the most of the congregational collections, reduce, though reluctantly, the number of schools from 85 to 55, as stated in last Report; and they have now, in token of their submission to the urgency of their circumstances, given up other five schools, reducing the establishment to 50. But while they do so, and deeply lament over the necessity of doing so, they cannot bring themselves to believe that the public has *deliberately said*, "Let the Gaelic Schools go down—we prize them not." They believe that this state of things, distressing as it must be to every Scotsman who loves his country and his countrymen—and still more to every Christian Scotsman who feels a responsibility for the soul of his brother—has, in a great measure, arisen from the *quietness of the Society's operations* in the midst of those loud and frequent calls on the behalf of other objects,—objects of deep interest, no doubt, but which their promoters never could have desired to operate to the extinction of such a favourite institution as the Gaelic School Society. * * *

The Committee have the satisfaction to state that in so far as they can judge they have reason to believe each individual of the 50 Teachers retained by them, to be a pious Christian man; and each person into whose hands this circular may come has to consider and determine as in the sight of God, whether he will by withholding a little pecuniary support, give his suffrage that this machinery, working by 50 pious and zealous Teachers among a poor and ignorant, but most interesting portion of our countrymen shall be for ever destroyed. * * *

There are in Canada, many natives of the Highlands of Scotland, who have acquired something almost entitled to the name of wealth, and yet cherish an unabated affection for the land of the mountain and flood, the land of their sires. We doubt not that the preceding statement will move their liberality, and that some of its substantial fruits will be transmitted to the Committee of the Gaelic School Society, to mingle with the offerings received from their countrymen in other climes.—But why, we would ask, is the maintenance of these schools cast upon public charity? Can the education of any class of the people be matter of indifference to an enlightened Government? If the poverty of the Exchequer be the plea, surely some keen-eyed economist might find a quarter where retrenchment might be made, without entailing ignorance and barbarity on the rising generation. Could our voice reach him from this wilderness, we would venture to whisper in the statesman's ear that no object is more worthy of his care than the moral and religious education of the people, that as a mere question of finance, it is cheaper far to govern them by enlightening them, than to restrain and keep them in order by military force, and expensive tribunals, and penitentiaries and prisons. We will not cease to hope and pray that such views of policy may ever prevail under the reign of our young Queen, whose accession to the throne is this day, and in this remote part of the empire, hailed with joyful acclamations by her Canadian subjects. Let the ample resources of Britain be legitimately em-