

extend their benevolence in the *gratuitous* circulation of their books, and to reduce those most needful to still lower rates, the Committee are constrained to appeal strongly to the liberality of the public; for they would have it fully impressed upon them, that every additional subscriber and every fresh donation, is so much added to their means of placing into the hands of the "poor destitute," that holy volume which "maketh wise unto salvation." They are particularly anxious to make an immediate and general reduction in the charge for the Holy Scriptures; but the sacrifice they must necessarily make in effecting this pious object will be met, they trust, by a corresponding generosity in those who are furnished with "this world's good." In furtherance of this important end, the Committee beg to repeat the suggestion made in their last Report, that annual collections should be made in the several churches of the District, in aid of the funds of the Society—a mode of contribution which would enable many, to whom the annual subscription, qualifying for a member, might not be convenient, to afford some assistance towards the gratuitous dissemination of the Holy Scriptures and the advancement of the general views of the Committee. The congregation of Cobourg have faithfully contributed their mite, in this manner, towards that excellent object; and the Committee, in again acknowledging their liberality in the result of the second annual collection, which, notwithstanding very recent collections for other objects, amounted to the very satisfactory sum of £9 8s 9d, must, at the same time express their grateful sense of the kindly bestowed exertions and impressive appeal of the Rev. Robert Cartwright, Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Quebec, in their behalf.*

The Committee have felt it to be a legitimate appropriation of a portion of this last fund, to contribute what is required towards the expenses of a Sunday School recently established at Cobourg, under the auspices of this Society. The encouragement already afforded in this "labour of love," by the very numerous attendance of scholars—averaging nearly 70 each Sunday—and by the zealous and cheerful co-operation of many neighbouring ladies and gentlemen as teachers, seems fully to justify the appropriation of the required books and tracts gratuitously from the depository of the Committee. The vast advantages resulting to religion from these institutions,—advantages which the public seem so well to appreciate, as to preclude the need of comment from this Committee—justify the hope that their establishment in all parts of the District, accessible to the aid of this Society, will not be delayed. The Committee will always be happy to afford every possible assistance towards this excellent object, where that aid will be met by a corresponding co-operation in those communities where such institutions are formed.

The views of the Committee on this important subject, the religious education of the young, are much raised from the exertions known to be in progress with the zealous prelate who presides over this Committee, to establish Sunday Schools throughout this Diocese on an uniform plan—a circumstance, than which nothing, they conceive, can be more instrumental to the spread and maintenance of Christ's Church generally, and especially of that "pure and reformed part of it to which we belong."

The Committee, in conclusion, desire the prayers of all their "fellow-helpers to the truth,"† for that assistance from above which can alone crown their exertions with striking or lasting success. It shall be their devout and earnest petition that they may go forth to this holy labour in the strength of the Lord God; and so they may hope—indeed it were the only ground of so exalted a hope—to "increase with the increase of God."

By desire of the Committee,

A. N. BETHUNE, }
G. S. BOULTON, } Secretaries.

* This gentleman preached the annual collection sermon, on Sunday, 15th September.

† 3 John, 8.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

From the Family Visitor and Sunday School Magazine.

Mr. Editor,

That the office of a teacher in a Sunday School is one of no ordinary responsibility and importance, no Christian will deny; and I am confident that you will coincide with me in the opinion, that the selection of an individual to fill that station, is a duty, for the faithful performance of which, those on whom the selection devolves are accountable to the Children under their care, to the community at large, to their Church, and to their God. No considerations, therefore, should be allowed to influence them, but a sacred regard to the interests of the children who are to be the future subjects of the teacher's care and attention.

I am not certain that you will agree with me in my estimation of the qualifications which should be required in those who are appointed to this station; but I think you will not be unwilling to insert the following remarks, which you will perceive are condensed and altered from an article which I lately prepared on "the qualifications and duties of teachers of common Schools." In my own view, the qualifications required in the latter should not be higher than those which are needed in teachers of Sunday Schools; but, whether we shall ever be able to have these schools supplied with teachers of such attainments, I am not prepared to say. It will not, however, do any harm to point out what I consider desirable, if not necessary, qualifications; and the consideration of my remarks may induce some individuals to pay more attention to the subject than they otherwise would have done.

In deciding upon the qualifications of a teacher, the first requisites—the absence of which render all other attainments much less useful than they would otherwise be,—are, a *mild, gentle, amiable, conciliating, and affectionate* disposition; an *even temper*, not subject to caprice; *great patience*; *persevering industry*; and *aristocracy*. Without these indispensable qualifications, the labours of a teacher, however well prepared he may be in other respects, will be unable to produce their desired effect. The education of a child consists not merely or chiefly in his being taught to go through the regular routine of duties prescribed by the rules of the school, but it extends to all his habits, all his principles—to the formation of the moral character of the future man. No doubt can be entertained, both of the susceptibility of right impression which belong to the earliest age, or selfish propensities, and of those peevish or violent tempers, which are then too often contracted, and which, when suffered to expand, lead, in after life, to domestic misery, to profligacy, and to crime. To counteract such propensities, and to prevent the growth of such tempers, is the great and important object of our Sunday Schools. How important is it, then, that the teacher should exhibit, in his own life and conversation, a model on which the tender and susceptible minds of his pupils may be formed! In the early stage of education, the acquisition of a knowledge of the branches taught in our schools, though in itself of great importance, is of small account when compared with that *moral culture*, and those *habits for self government*, and with those feelings of mutual kindness, which a judicious teacher will endeavor to inculcate.

In this point of view, it is of the highest importance to select teachers who have learned to govern their own temper; who unite *firmness, decision of character, and stability*, with *mildness, patience, forbearance, and kindness of disposition*: who are not liable to be moved, either to *vehemence*, or to *peevishness, sharpness, or ill-humor*, by the waywardness of their children, or by the various difficulties of the task; whose *tone and manner*, as well as *feelings*, shall be those uniformly of *parental affection*; and who shall be disposed, from a sense of duty, to exercise constant vigilance in marking, and *gently counteracting*, every instance the children may exhibit, of insubordination or disobedience to teachers or monitors, or of selfishness, selfishness unkindness, or violence in their intercourse with each other.*

To adopt the sentiments of Mr. Wilson, (in his valuable "System of Infant Schools,") a teacher of young children should, in few words, be himself the model of that in which it is proposed that

* See Christian Observer, August 1824.