

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.



THE POWER OF SABBATH SCHOOLS.

BY JUDGE M'LEAN.

The more I reflect upon Sabbath schools, the more deeply am I impressed with their importance. Education without moral training may increase national knowledge, but it will add nothing to national virtue.

By a most intelligent and able report, made some years ago by Guizot, it appeared that those departments of France, where education had been most advanced, crime was most common. And by later reports, it is shown, in Prussia, Scotland, and England, where the means of education have greatly increased, especially in Prussia and Scotland, criminal offences have increased. Making due allowance for the growth of population, and the aggregation of individuals in

carrying on various useful enterprises, the principal cause of this, is a want of moral culture.

Knowledge without restraint only increases the capacity of an individual for mischief. As a citizen, he is more dangerous to society, and does more to corrupt the public morals than one without education. So selfish is our nature, and so prone to evil, that we require chains, moral or physical, to curb our propensities and passions.

Early impressions are always the most lasting. Who has forgotten the scenes of his boyhood, or the pious instructions of his parents? However they may be disregarded and condemned by an abandoned course, yet they cannot be consigned to oblivion. In the darkest hours of revelry they will light up the memory and cause remorse. And the