

In order to form a clear judgment of our Christian progress, it may be well to contrast our present condition with the state of the West-Port when Dr. Chalmers and his fellow-labourers began. This we shall do, by extracting one sentence from an address delivered by Dr. Chalmers in December 1845. It gives the statistics of one district, by no means the worst, but forming a fair average specimen of the whole :—

" Total No. of families,	27
of children under 15 years,	36
of adults from 15 to 20 years,	10
of these capable of attending school,	27
of these at school,	8
CHURCH ATTENDANCE.	
Attending Roman Catholic Chapel,	3
Connected with a Christian church,	2
in all,	5

leaving twenty-two families living in practical heathenism !"

We hasten to give the statistics of the school attendance, the progress and present state of the godly upbringing of the young. Dr. Chalmers was determined from the commencement, without a single exception, to exact a small fee, and to this principle we have faithfully adhered.

Our schools which, from the beginning, were numerous attended, continue to advance. During last season the numbers rose to upwards of 330 in attendance.

The returns from the teachers are as follows :—

DAY SCHOOL.

	Scholars.
On the roll,	380
Of these in actual attendance,	330

EVENING SCHOOL.

There are besides, during the winter at the evening classes, on the roll, above	140
---	-----

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

These are in regular operation for religious instruction, not only to the children, but

also to male and female adults, conducted by a superintendent and thirty teachers.

SAVINGS BANK.

This part of our operations has been coeval with the existence of the mission. It also continues to prosper. It is open for deposits and payments every Saturday. The returns for the past year are as follow :—

Number of deposits,	1814
Amount deposited,	£131 13 10
Or, at an average,	£2 10 7 per week.

There is besides a children's savings bank, conducted by one of the lady visitors, in which boys and girls deposit their pence and halfpence weekly, and thereby frequently purchase not only the school-books that they require, but likewise articles of cloth ing for themselves and their parents, the produce of the girls' industry, which they have the exclusive privilege of purchasing at the price of the material; the remainder, if any, being sold to other inhabitants of the West-Port. The deposits here amount to upwards of £20 per annum, or about 8s per week. There is likewise a branch connected with the winter evening classes; so that we feel warranted to say, that the whole amount reaches yearly to nearly £200.

Many of our people are, besides, members of yearly societies, and other mutually provident associations, which it is delightful to see prevailing among working men. And every reflecting person will remark that the bare sum saved gives but a small indication of the good hereby done. The principal benefit consists in the frugality and careful foresight which it at once indicates and fosters. It shows, moreover, that "the population can do much for themselves." Indeed, if we were freed from the infliction of seventeen drinking-houses among us, the yearly deposits, instead of £200, would be £2000.

It would be to us a pleasing duty, if we did not feel that we have exceeded our space, to describe in order our *Library*, our *Reading-room*, and our *Washing-house*, with bleaching-green and dressing-apparatus. We simply say they continue to prosper, and recommend attention to the ample information in the tracts published regarding them.

As to the expense of this machinery, all is conducted, every salaried official paid, and every current expense discharged by a sum of about £400 a year. £300 of this is contributed by the people themselves, leaving only £100 to be supplied *ab extra*.

HOME MISSION OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Our next extract shows something of the efforts which the people of that Church by whom so much aid has been given to the Colonies must make, in order to maintain ordinances among themselves. There are some wealthy congregations the members of which do

friend was called to visit a Dispensary patient in a far worse part of the city than any to be found in the West-Port. On entering the den, and hearing the voice, and examining the symptoms, he exclaimed, "I am mistaken, friend, if I have not attended you before." "Oh yes, doctor! you have often done me good. You only know my trouble." "It was in the West-Port, was it not?" "Yes it was, doctor." "And in a far better room, and a far healthier neighbourhood than this—it was in —?" "Yes, doctor." "And why did you leave it—is this cheaper?" "Indeed, no sir, I paid there 1s. 3d. per week, and here 1s. 6d." "Why, then, did you leave?" "Indeed, doctor, to tell you the truth, I could not get peace yonder with ladies and gentlemen coming in, and saying, *Go to church, go to church*; so I just suited here to get peace."