

- No. 9. *Visitor*—Miss Wells.
 No. 10. *Visitors*—Mrs. Scott, Manse, and Mrs. Sinclair.
 No. 11. *Visitor*—Mrs. Wm. M. Allan.
 No. 12. *Visitor*—
 No. 13. *Visitors*—Mrs. W. H. Creighton, and Miss Forman.
 No. 14. *Visitor*—Mrs. Archibald.
 No. 15. *Visitor*—Mrs. S. Story.
 No. 16. *Visitors*—Miss Hill and Miss Lawlor.
 No. 17. *Visitor*—Mrs. David Allison.
 No. 18. *Visitor*—Mrs. Andrew Mitchell.
 No. 19. *Visitors*—Mrs. W. B. Fairbanks, and Mrs. Hunter.

North part of the City. *Visitor*—Mrs. Sutherland.

Water Street. *Visitor*—Mrs. Harrison.

Depository for ready made articles, Mrs. Roxby, 55 Hollis Street, adjoining the residence of Hon. A. Keith.

Mrs. Gray, *Patroness*. Mrs. Allison, *Secretary*.

St. Matthew's Church District Visiting Society, in account with the Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.
Paid for Printing Report, - - -	2	0	0
in Charity, - - -	25	3	6
for Fuel, - - -	11	13	0
for Work, - - -	111	15	1
for Materials, - - -	213	3	4½
Balance in hands, - - -	11	3	4½
	£404	18	4

CR.

	£	s.	d.
By Balance last Report, - - -	2	0	11
Subscription received, - - -	90	5	3
Sale of Garments, - - -	297	0	2
Collection St. Matthew's Church, - - -	14	12	0
Donation from Curling Club, - - -	1	0	0
	£404	18	4

Balance brought down, - - - £11 3 4½

Presbytery of Halifax.

The usual quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Halifax, was held in St. Matthew's Session room on the 3rd of January, the Rev. John Scott, Moderator.

Mr. William Little having produced an extract from the minutes of St. Andrew's session appointing him their representative in the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing year, his name was added to the roll.

Inter alia. The Rev. George Harper, M. A., who had recently arrived in Halifax, on his way to Prince Edward Island, whither he has been appointed by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, having been present, laid on the table various documents, his extract of license, appointment by the Committee, and certificate from the Presbytery of Fordyce where he had last resided. These documents having been read and found highly satisfactory, Mr. Harper was received as a probationer within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Obituary.

In this our first number, it is our melancholy duty to record the death of FRANCES ELIZABETH, wife of the Rev. John Scott, minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax. During the past summer Mrs. Scott visited Britain in company with her husband, in the hope of receiving benefit from the sea voyage and the best medical advice. But in vain. She re-

turned home late in Autumn much exhausted in strength, and after a long and painful illness departed this life at the Manse, on the 22nd of December, deeply regretted by her afflicted relatives, by the members of St. Matthew's Church, and by the public at large. Few persons in a prominent position have so acquitted themselves as to win such universal respect. Mrs. Scott was a woman of great endowments and accomplishments and they were all sanctified by the spirit of Christ. It was impossible to come in contact with her, without being struck with her strength of mind, her intelligence and high principles. Her character was marked by steadfast adherence to the path of duty, by sincere piety and unostentatious charity. In great things, and in small her life seemed to be regulated by a constant regard of what was right. She was in every respect a remarkable woman and a beautiful specimen of redeemed humanity. She took a deep interest in all the religious movements which shed such a lustre on our age, while more especially in the sphere in which she was called to move, she lent her efficient influence to the Ladies' Bible Society, the District Visiting Society, and the Sabbath School connected with St. Matthew's church.

Her disease was beyond the power of medicine and the skill of physicians, but it illustrated the strength of her faith in the Redeemer and heightened her virtues. The bright visions of hope triumphed over her woes, and her departure was tranquil and happy. Mrs. Scott will long be remembered not only by a wide circle of friends to whom she was ever most dear, but by the ignorant she instructed, by the sick she comforted, and by the poor she relieved.

Church Building in Pictou.

We hear from time to time with great pleasure of the erection of new churches by our friends in the Presbytery of Pictou. Within a recent period new churches have been opened for public worship at Wallace, Pugwash, Cape John, and Salt Springs, and others are in course of erection. The New Glasgow congregation finding their old building quite insufficient are already far advanced with a new one which when finished will be one of the most magnificent Country Churches in Nova Scotia. We learn also from the minister of Garelloch, that a congregational meeting was held lately in that parish for the purpose of giving some orders about repairing the old church, but that before they separated they changed their intention and subscribed most liberally towards the erection of a new one. We understand also that preparations are being made for building Manses at Wallace, Pictou and in one or two other places. Pictou has long been the stronghold of the Church of Scotland in the province, and we rejoice that it is not losing its ancient character. For a number of years our congregations there were left almost destitute of ordinances, the Rev. Mr. McGillevray being the only minister of the Church in the Country. Efforts were not wanting to seduce them from the Church of their fathers, but their attachment was too deep to be shaken, and since they have been better, though they are still imperfectly supplied with ministers, they have been most active and zealous in every undertaking that has for its object the welfare of the Church.

The Sabbath.

Among the most hopeful and cheering signs of the times, may doubtless be regarded the efforts which are being made by the friends of Christianity, to disseminate in a systematic form, through the medium of the press, correct and enlarged views with regard to the Divine institution and moral obligation of the Sabbath. This seems the more necessary at a period like the present, when the authority of our most venerable institutions, not excepting even our most holy Sabbath, is liable to be called in question, and when, in accordance with the utilitarian spirit of the age in which we live, this divine institution is often summarily dismissed, except in so far as it is practically available for recreation and amusement. Shorn of its glory and stripped of its divine sanction, it is sought to be diverted from its original purpose, and instead of "the Lord's day," to be made, in a peculiar sense, "man's day." Now, we need scarcely say that it is the duty of all Christians, whether collectively or individually, to endeavour, by every means in their power, to strengthen the authority and preserve the sanctity of the Sabbath—the day which the Lord has made.

It is found that the awarding of prizes for essays on such interesting topics, is the best method of securing productions which are most likely to be generally read. Though many of our ablest divines have written admirable Treatises upon the Sabbath, the subject is one which, varying in some degree with the ever changing circumstances of society, can never be exhausted. Most of our readers will remember that, some years ago, prizes were offered to working men for the best essays upon this subject, when a very large number were sent in for competition. Several of these which ranked highest were afterwards published; and in the opinion of many who were entitled to be considered good judges, they were of such a high character as would have done credit to any class of society. This says much for the latent talent which exists to so large an extent among the labouring classes of Great Britain, and which only requires opportunities of developing itself. As was, however, to be expected, the style of treatment adopted was in general such as to render these Essays more fitted for circulation among the classes from which they emanated. To reach a higher class productions of a different stamp are requisite, and we are glad to observe from advertisements in the newspapers, that the Council of the Evangelical Alliance have offered a prize of one hundred pounds for an Essay on the Sabbath, to be written with a special view to circulation among the higher classes of the community. For the information of our readers, we subjoin the following particulars relative to the competition. The Essay will be expected to bring into view;—the theories which have prevailed in regard to the Sabbath—the Scriptural authority and obligation of the Sabbath—the history and advantages of the Sabbath—the present actual amount of Sabbath desecration in our own and other countries—the extent of such desecration, as compared with what it has been—the causes to which it is attributable, and the moral means by which it may be counteracted. It is not intended to limit writers to these topics. They merely show the kind of work which the Council desiderate. It is wished that the whole subject of the Sabbath may be clearly and fully dealt with. The work must