

children are unable to attend the meetings for worship, owing to the want of shoes and clothing. Could not some of our people easily supply this want? Mr. Baridon therefore deems it his duty to read the Word of God at these houses and to pray with them there. The letter is an exceedingly interesting and encouraging one, but some of the details are, from motives of prudence, not here translated. The work of evangelization in this quarter is most promising. Surely the Church will not allow so hopeful an effort to languish for want of funds. The stations being within three hours of Montreal by railway, are easily accessible, and can therefore be readily supervised by the Committee. We trust that there will be a cordial response to the Circular which has been issued by the Convener of the Committee, and which we insert in this number.

#### SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We insert in the present number a Circular of the Synod's Committee on Sabbath Schools. It is accompanied by a list of queries, answers to which are to be forwarded by Kirk Sessions, and from the replies received by the Committee the Report to the Synod will be prepared.

In the "Presbyterian" of September last we took occasion to make some remarks upon the unsatisfactory answers received in many instances to the inquiries made last year, but, as the returns then given were the first asked by the Synod on the subject, such a result was not surprising. This year we hope that more attention to accuracy and explicitness will be observed. For instance the reply, "regular," made in many returns last year to the query requiring a statement of the average attendance, gives little or no information at all upon that particular point. A roll-book is an essential piece of furniture in the Sabbath School, and, where that is properly kept by the Superintendent, there can be no difficulty in stating the average attendance per Sabbath throughout the year in figures. District Schools, not known to the Committee, should apply to the Convener for a copy of the schedule, and we trust that all Kirk Sessions will make it a duty to forward a return in obedience to the injunction of the Synod. By doing so they will promote the interests of a very important scheme, they will strengthen the hands of the Committee, who are bestowing much labor for the advancement of the cause, and they will encourage many a Sabbath School teacher, who, struggling amid difficulties in some humble sphere to uphold the standard of the Cross, will thank God and take courage as he learns how large a band of fellow-labourers go out each Sabbath day to share his toils, on whose prayers and sympathy he feels that he can confidently rely.

The Scheme of Lessons accompanying the Circular gives evidence of much care on

the part of the compilers, and will doubtless prove a valuable help to many schools that have not hitherto used a published scheme. Looking to its being generally adopted throughout the Province, we accept it as a link to unite our scattered schools in common sympathy.

The Scheme, it seems to us, is better adapted for a Bible class than for use in general classes. The reading lessons are not so likely to appear attractive to the mind of an unregenerate child as a selection of passages from Old Testament history or biography, or of incidents from the lives of our Lord and His Apostles, might prove. The memory lessons are longer than we find usually expected of Sabbath scholars, who, in such a case, are apt to view them in the same light as the day-school tasks; and, while we admit the importance of occasional missionary addresses and examinations by the Superintendent, we think that the occurrence of four of these in one quarter is too great an interference with the work of the individual teachers. On these subjects of secondary importance the experience of our various schools will testify to the Committee before the publication of another scheme.

We understand that some of our schools had fixed upon a scheme, and put it into the hands of their children before the Circular was received, so that it might have been well had the intention of the Committee to publish a scheme been advertised before hand. No intimation has yet been made as to whether or not copies of the Scheme issued by the Synod's Committee can be procured anywhere in sufficient quantities for the use of schools.

*Circular from the Convener of the Synod's Committee on Sabbath Schools.*

FERGUS, January 1st, 1859.

#### TO THE KIRK SESSION OF

The Synod's Committee on Sabbath Schools, in carrying out the design of their appointment, earnestly solicit your best attention to the annexed Series of Queries:—

The Committee are deeply impressed with the conviction that, the more the subject of Sabbath Schools is considered, the greater will be the importance attached to it. To induce and promote efficient working of these means of grace for those who are, or who may become, the young of the Flock, is the object aimed at by the Synod.

Already, as you are aware, has our Church received much encouragement from the character and zeal evinced by our Sabbath Schools. There is, perhaps, nothing in our present ecclesiastical state so animating. To the pastor, the teacher and the Christian they are highly refreshing, and promise Christian prosperity.

In carrying out the instructions of the Synod, the Committee anxiously desire to further and extend what is already so auspicious. This can be done by internal improvements in the conducting of our Sabbath Schools, and by multiplication. Periodical meetings of Superintendents and Teachers for prayer, conference and preparation; cheerful exertions for the best welfare of their young charge, and sympathy with them; encouraging of every Sabbath Scholar to read and circulate the "Juvenile Presbyterian"; and union of both teachers and scholars to strive

together for the salvation of the heathen, and for the addition of Missionary and local as well as of Congregational Schools:—all these may be named as worthy of hearty effort.

In order to aid in attaining such important ends, a copy of a "Scheme of Sabbath School Lessons" for the year 1859 is hereby forwarded to you. While obviously fitted to secure unity in the exercises of the School, it can be accommodated to the Junior Classes by abbreviations.

The Committee request that you will have the kindness to forward replies to the Queries not later than the end of March, in order that a Digest and Report may be prepared for the Synod.

The Committee entreat your prayers and cooperation in this work.

In name, and by appointment of the Committee,

GEORGE MACDONNELL,  
Convener.

### THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

#### COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

The Commission of Synod is appointed to meet in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on the third Wednesday, the 16th day of this month at noon. All who were members of the Synod at last meeting are entitled to sit a vote as members of the Commission. Nine, of whom five must be ministers, are required to form a quorum.

#### INTIMATION TO PRESBYTERY CLERKS

The Clerk of Synod has mailed for all Presbytery Clerks copies of blank Presbytery Roll, to be returned for next Meeting of Synod, and of printed circular letters, to be sent to Presbyteries when they resolve to take Students upon Trials for License. If the parcels have miscarried in any instance, a notice to that effect sent to the Clerk of Synod will be attended to.

#### FRENCH MISSION FUND.

The Treasurer of the French Mission Fund acknowledges the receipt of the following contribution:—

Dec. 6, 1858, received from D. Bisson,  
of Paspebiac, ..... \$2 00  
ARCH. FERGUSON,  
Treasurer.  
Montreal, Jan. 28, 1859.

#### INDIAN ORPHANAGE SCHEME AND JUVENILE MISSION.

##### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Amount last acknowledged, ..... \$95 09  
*In aid of The Canadian School.*  
E. (anonymous) Seymour, Canada West, ..... 1 00  
Thomas Paton, jun., Montreal, to buy a Bible, ..... 00 43  
Point St. Charles Mission School, Montreal, per J. Smith, Esq., ..... 7 00  
St. Andrew's Church Sunday School, Lanark, per Rev. W. C. Clark, .... 12 00  
St. John's Church Sabbath School, Corwall, per Rev. Dr. Urquhart, . 16 35  
St. Andrew's Church Sabbath School, Montreal, per Alex. Morris, Esq., . 30 00  
From a few girls of the Montreal School of Industry, per Alex. Morris, Esq., the produce of their work, 2 50