

at the time were, that had I no other encouragement to labour with renewed assiduity in those islands, than the spectacle which is now presented, of witnessing the young reared under my own ministrations, taking the place of the old in leading the devotions of the brethren, there was inducement enough in this to lead me to devote myself with renewed vigour to the work in which I was engaged, in the lively hope that my labour should not be in vain."

In the several congregations noticed above, there have been additions to the membership during the year, but they have not much exceeded the number of disjunctions. The want of adequate employment renders necessary a considerable emigration, more especially of the youthful population of the islands; and the Churches have constantly to regret, as far as their own interests and outward prosperity are concerned, the removal of the young, and these most frequently the most promising of their members. In these circumstances, while the ministers who are engaged in rearing these infant Churches, are furnished with very powerful inducements to continue their labours, that the young who are trained up under their ministrations may, wherever they go, be "a seed that shall serve the Lord," the cause of truth and of piety, is identified with their exertions, and puts forth the most powerful claims upon the members of other churches. The education,—especially the religious instruction of the youth,—is here, if any where, of paramount importance. It were difficult to estimate the amount of influence exerted by those who are religiously educated, when they are scattered, as the Orkney youth frequently are, over all parts of the world. The schools and classes attached to the different Congregations are objects of deep pastoral solicitude, and are now, as they always have been, under constant pastoral superintendence. They might be very considerably increased in number, were the means of support only furnished to promote their extension. Thanks are due to those churches which are at present extending their aid. In connexion with other ministerial work, pastoral visitation has, as usual, during the year, been continually prosecuted. It has been extended not only to the members themselves of the several Congregations, but, where opportunities invited, to their neighbors, and also to the general hearers who attended upon ordinances. Public addresses have been frequently delivered likewise in the districts visited. As is common in the United Secession Church, the families of the Congregations have been regularly examined—the young as to religious knowledge, the old as to personal religion. Religious tracts have been extensively circulated throughout the islands, and have done much good. If any advancement has been made in religion, much, under God, is to be ascribed to the spirit engendered, and the holy influence promoted, by the fellowship meetings for prayer and religious conference, which have been under the regular superintendence of the Elders, and have been frequently visited by the Ministers. It is the earnest and pervading desire of the Associated Churches throughout this