

invaluable in its place and peculiarly adapted to the requirements of many of our congregations. Its publications are varied and numerous, but we refer especially to such works as Hodge's, Miller's, Alexander's, Fairchild's, and so forth. We know of no works we would more cheerfully commend to thoughtful Presbyterians or to inquirers after the truth than these; and we know of no better means for putting these into circulation than by colportage.

Gaelic Bibles also are extensively circulated by our Colporteurs. These are the issues of the Scottish National Society, and are a great improvement on the edition of the British and Foreign Bible Society.—They have the special attraction of containing the Gaelic Psalms in metre, a very noble version which Highlanders prize above all price.

The Scheme has been in existence during twelve years, and in that time our Colporteurs have circulated 60,000 volumes of unexceptionable literature. All that the Church has contributed to aid the scheme would hardly sustain one colporteur one year! No wonder that the work slackened and sank down very near to the gates of death. It is impossible that in a sparsely peopled country like this the work can be made to sustain itself. The colporteur cannot live on a miserable Twenty-five per cent on his sales. He may drag out a feeble existence for a year or two; but it is a martyrdom, a slow death. He loses heart, health, money, everything; and he must either turn to some other means of livelihood, or learn to cheat, or die!

By reason of Mr. Baxter's careful management, the scheme may be regarded as solvent. A hundred pounds' worth of books are on hand to balance a debt of seventy pounds. The Committee held a meeting lately in Halifax to take the whole case into consideration. After mature deliberation, they determined that a fresh effort should be put forth to revive our Colportage and place it on a more satisfactory footing.—Mr. Baxter was authorized to contract a loan of \$400, and to solicit donations. We trust that the good already accomplished by the scheme will encourage our friends to

afford liberal aid in the present emergency. Our congregations in Halifax have done their part well; and we hope that their example will be followed in other localities.—There are several ways in which the cause can be aided. You may send a donation of money direct to Mr. BAXTER, ONSLOW. You may give the money to the Colporteur when you meet him or when he calls at your house. You will aid also by purchasing as many of the Colporteur's books as you can, and thus at the same moment lightening his load and his cares, and the debt of the undertaking.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee on SABBATH SCHOOLS appointed by the Synod has issued a series of LESSONS for the first half of the present year. The second part of the series will be ready in due time. These lessons can be obtained at the Witness Office, at the rate of fifty cents per 100 copies.

We take this opportunity of saying a few words about Sabbath Schools. We cannot over-estimate their importance and value as a means of grace, nor can we too frequently urge their claims on the attention of the church.

1. There should be a Sabbath School in connection with every congregation where parents neglect their duty. If fathers and mothers were faithful and diligent in training their children every family would be a "Sabbath School;" but even then it might not be superfluous to gather all the "lambs of the flock" for an hour or so on the Lord's Day. There would be scope enough for the combined efforts of the parent and of the Sabbath School teacher. We are aware that in a large proportion of our families Sabbath School teaching is *not* made an excuse for neglect of home training. On the contrary the two influences operate harmoniously and very successfully. But in too many instances the religious training of the young will be wholly overlooked if there be no Sabbath School. Hence the necessity of keeping up this means of grace all the year round. Day schools flourish in the winter; then why not Sabbath Schools