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THE  
**SECOND REPORT**

OF THE,

**PICTOU SABBATH SCHOOL**

**SOCIETY.**

**FEBRUARY, 1824.**

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Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go;  
keep her, for she is thy life. Prov.

PRINTED AT THE WEIR DURHAM PRESS,

PICTOU.

1824.

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**OFFICE-BEARERS.**

**PRESIDENT,**

The Rev. James MacGregor, D. D.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS,**

Rev. Duncan Ross,  
Rev. Donald A. Fraser,  
Rev. John M'Kinlay,  
Hugh Denoon Esq.

**Committee,**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. James Dawson, | Mr. Alexander M'Intosh, |
| Mr. John M'Kay,   | Mr. John Patterson,     |
| Mr. Robert M'Kay, | Mr. James Killer,       |
| Mr. J. Blanchard, | Mr. Mathew Patterson.   |

**Secretary,**

Mr. Robert Dawson.

**Treasurer and Librarian,**

Mr. Robert S. Patterson.

**Collectors,**

Mr. William Corbet and Mr. D. Ferguson.

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## RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

### I.

This Society shall be denominated The Pictou Sabbath School Society.

### II.

The efforts of the Society shall be solely directed to the promotion of the glory of God and the benefit of souls, by the establishment and support of Sabbath Schools for the religious instruction of youth.

### III.

The affairs of the Society shall be regulated by a President, four Vice-presidents, a Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, two Collectors, and a Committee of eight, to be annually elected. The Office-bearers and Committee shall meet quarterly, or oftener, as business may require. Five shall constitute a quorum.

### IV.

The Westminster Assembly's Shorter Catechism shall be taught in all the Society's schools; and nothing inconsistent with the doctrines contained in it, shall be recognised by the Society.

### V.

The meetings of the Society shall be opened and closed with prayer; and shall be held on the second tuesday of May, August, November, and February. The annual meeting shall be on the second tuesday of February, at twelve o'clock, noon.

## VI.

Any person paying two shillings and sixpence annually, shall be a member of the Society: And whoever advances twenty shillings at once, shall be a member for life. Donations to any amount will be received.

## VII.

The Committee shall provide a depository for the sale of books, and for supplying schools connected with the institution, at prime cost.

## VIII.

Such of the members as may be judged fit to be teachers, shall first be proposed to the Committee, and if approved of, shall be appointed. No teacher shall receive any pecuniary remuneration.

## IX.

The teachers in the Town of Piclou, shall meet monthly; and those throughout the district, as often as possible, to make arrangements for mutual assistance, to supply vacant schools, and to report to the Committee what may appear necessary to promote their interests.

## X.

The teachers shall lay before the annual meeting of the Society, the state of the schools under their charge, together with the annual expenditure of each.

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REPORT &c.

Benevolent and religious societies have derived much pleasure from the reports of their proceedings. The satisfaction thus experienced, is annually increasing; both because the societies are becoming more numerous, and because their operations are more energetic and useful. From a survey of both the past and present, we may venture to hope that success will be rapidly multiplied; till the knowledge of the Lord cover the whole earth. Every religious society when properly conducted, is subservient to the best interests of men. Between the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Pictou Sabbath School Society, a vast difference will be found to exist. While the exertions of the one extend to the remotest regions, and the operations of the other, are limited almost to a single district; still the latter may be equally beneficial, in its own place, with the former, and tend to the completion of the great designs of him who reveals his mercy to perishing men. Bearing in mind this truth, you will hear with pleasure the report of your Committee; the amount of which may be given in a few words.

In the schools under your patronage there is a general progress. The scholars are advancing in the knowledge of the holy scriptures. Their deportment is becoming, and in many instances, improving. Such is the uniform character of the returns transmitted to your Committee. Although none of the communications mention any signal example of reformation, or remarkable conversion to Jesus, such as has frequently occurred under similar means; still we may rest satisfied that much good may be effected, even where no sudden or striking result is perceptible. Besides, as the schools have been only a short time in operation, the teachers are not as yet much accustomed to record particular incidents. In mentioning these, some of the returns are much more explicit than others: and your Committee regard it rather as a defect, that, in by far the major part, the statements are

too general. Whilst this, in some cases, may originate in carelessness, they are willing to ascribe it chiefly to inexperience: and they trust, that, in future, in regard to this circumstance, no just foundation for remark will be furnished. To teachers, also, it would be highly advantageous, and occasion only but a small degree of additional labour, were they to furnish themselves with memorandum books, and carefully insert every particular connected with the prosperity of the schools. The most minute of the returns is that of Mr. William Graham at Fishpools, East River. The specimens of progress exhibited, form satisfactory proofs of diligence in the teacher, and of eager application on the part of the pupils.

It is common for the children under your superintendence, to commit to memory psalms, paraphrases, questions, and portions of Holy Writ: And with pleasure your Committee state, that, in many instances, proofs for certain doctrines are required to be adduced from the inspired volume. When the scholar has arrived at such an age as to be capable of exercising his judgment, the latter mode of instruction is highly beneficial. It is calculated to render him acquainted with the great standard of faith and practice. To adopt this plan, in all cases in which it is practicable, cannot be too warmly recommended. But your Committee, at the same time, would remind teachers, that no abstruse or disputed point ought to be introduced. The leading doctrines of the christian religion are so plain, that he who runs, may read them. To these the teacher ought principally to direct the attention of his pupils. These will furnish him with ample materials for such remarks and illustrations, as, by the blessing of God, will make deep and indelible impressions upon their hearts. Any individual, who will entertain children with lengthened discussions, relative to questions which men of the greatest erudition and talents have been unable satisfactorily to solve, is unqualified to discharge the duties of the office which he holds.

During the last year, two new schools have been added to the former number. One of these, though

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not numerous, is extremely interesting; both because those who attend it, are exceedingly eager to improve, and, also, because they are negroes. As they belong to a class of the human race, too frequently despised by those of our colour; so they are intitled to a more extensive share of attention from this Society.

But, whilst these particulars are of a flattering description, your Committee have, at the same time several grounds of regret. They are sorry, that, from some of the teachers, no returns have been made. This circumstance has prevented them from forming an idea, as accurately as they could have wished, relative to the state of a number of the schools under your care. Besides, in some instances, fewer pupils than formerly attend. This your Committee in so far anticipated; since the effect of mere novelty is sometimes very extensive. They would, therefore, earnestly recommend to all the friends of Sabbath Schools, to feel no discouragement. Though difficulties should sometimes occur; still the motives to surmount them are numerous and powerful. To communicate to the young a knowledge of the fundamental principles of religion, to impart, by this means, sentiments and feelings which may give a virtuous turn during life to the character, and to qualify for an exhibition of practice, such as shall accord with the relations both of a good citizen and true christian, form a specimen of the objects to be kept in view, in all the operations of this Society. Let teachers exercise all due diligence in behalf of those committed to their care; and let parents embrace every favourable opportunity of allowing their children to derive advantage from such exertions. The more the conduct is of this description, the more closely is the example of our blessed Redeemer imitated. Of him it was predicted, that he should *gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom*: and when he tabernacled among men, he took little children into his arms and blessed them. From the throne of his glory, he now issues forth his injunction to men, *Feed my lambs*. Let us, therefore, follow his example, and obey his command.



Whilst we have little to state relative to our own proceedings, it affords us pleasure to learn, that, throughout the world, the operations of Sabbath Schools are prosperous. We shall give an extract from the Report of the London Sabbath School Union. From this document it appears, that, in Paris and its vicinity, nearly 300 children are receiving instruction. To Switzerland and Gibraltar, also, assistance has been communicated by the Society. To India, Ceylon, New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, supplies of books have been sent; and the most encouraging success is already perceptible. Whilst at Papara and Wilke's Harbour, in the South Sea Islands, many hundreds derive instruction from the Society's bounty; by the same means, in West and South Africa, the number of pupils is found to amount to several thousands. The Report, also, adverts to the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the West Indies. The four London Auxiliaries have 397 schools, 5083 teachers, and 55175 scholars. The Country Unions have 2888 schools, 37546 teachers, and 383670 scholars. Wales has 974 schools, 14018 teachers, and 98240 scholars. Scotland has 1292 schools, 3000 teachers, and 71300 scholars. The Hibernian Society has 103 schools and 6824 scholars: And the Sunday School Society for Ireland, has 167088 scholars. The total amount in Great Britain and Ireland, is 7415 schools, about 72000 teachers, and 772297 scholars.

We shall subjoin two other extracts, of a very encouraging nature to the friends of sabbath schools. The first is from a letter, written at Huahine, in the South Seas. "We are happy to inform you, that we have, in addition to day schools, a Sunday school at Huahine. It is confined to children. There are in the school 230 boys and 120 girls. The reason why the boys are more numerous than the girls, is, that the female children were more frequently murdered than the male, in their horrid practice of infanticide; the males being saved for

" the purposes of war. All such horrid customs are  
 " now fallen with their idolatry, we hope, never to  
 " rise again. The children are instructed by pious  
 " native teachers, six males and six females, beside the  
 " superintendent. " Behold, what the Lord hath  
 wrought! In this distant quarter, we find a Sun-  
 day school, conducted by thirteen natives; where,  
 a few years since, the sabbath was not known.

The other extract states the following circum-  
 stance, that occurred at Newcastle in England. " A  
 " woman called, one Sunday, at the Orphan House  
 " Sunday school, to get some of the teachers, to go  
 " and pray with a young man who was dying; but  
 " not finding any upon the spot, two of the senior  
 " teachers offered to go with her. On entering the  
 " woman's house, they perceived a young man ly-  
 " ing in bed, evidently in the last stage of a con-  
 " sumption. His eyes were closed; and the death  
 " rustling in his throat, indicated a speedy dissolu-  
 " tion. One of the teachers asked him how he felt;  
 " but he made scarcely any reply. His little bro-  
 " ther, who had been sitting crying at the foot of  
 " the bed, came round to the side and said to him,  
 " Here are the teachers from the Sunday school come  
 " to see you. New life seemed to be given to the  
 " dying young man, at these words: his countenance  
 " brightened, and he lifted up his languid eyes to  
 " behold the teachers. To his and their surprise, he  
 " recognised in them, the very persons in whose  
 " class he had been, some time before, in the Sun-  
 " day school. The scene was now truly delightful.  
 " Tears of joy flowed down the young man's cheeks,  
 " when he told them, (being asked how he felt his  
 " mind,) that he was happy; that he had no doubt  
 " of his acceptance with Christ, upon whom alone he  
 " rested his hopes of salvation. On the teachers ad-  
 " verting to past times when he was at the Sunday  
 " school, he replied, Ah! these were blessed days. It  
 " was in the school, I first discovered that I was a  
 " sinner, and was led to seek the salvation of the  
 " soul, through the merits of a crucified Redeemer.  
 " I shall praise God throughout eternity, for the in-  
 " struction I received there. "

ANNUAL CASH ACCOUNT,  
From February, 1823, to February, 1824.

RECEIPTS.

|   |       |       |    |
|---|-------|-------|----|
| Balance in the treasury since last year,  | L. 1  | 13    | 0  |
| Half yearly Collections of Members,   | 6     | 6     | 6  |
| Collection at Annual sermon, . . . . .  | 3     | 6     | 6  |
| Robert S. Patterson, . . . . .  | 2     | 9     | 5  |
| West River Branch society, . . . . .  | 4     | 19    | 6  |
| Collection at a sermon by the Rev. D. Ross,   | 3     | 0     | 9  |
| West River Ladies' society, to constitute<br>the Rev. D. Ross, a life member, . . . . .   | 1     | 0     | 0  |
| Scholars of the Middle River schools, for<br>the same purpose . . . . .                   | 1     | 0     | 0  |
| Middle River Branch Society, . . . . .  | 4     | 9     | 0  |
| East River do. . . . .  | 1     | 0     | 0  |
| Mount Tom Ladies' society, to constitute<br>the Rev. Mr. M'Leod, a life member, . . . . . | 1     | 0     | 0  |
| Scotch Hill Branch society . . . . .  | 2     | 13    | 6  |
| Pictou juvenile Society, to constitute the<br>Rev. J.M'Kinlay, a life member, . . . . .   | 1     | 0     | 0  |
| Andrew Marshall, . . . . .  |       | 10    | 0  |
| Cash from Fisher's Grant, . . . . .   |       | 10    | 2  |
| Do. from River John, by the Rev. John<br>Mitchell, . . . . .                              |       | 12    | 10 |
| Do. Tatamagouche, by Mr. A. Campbell,   |       | 16    | 6  |
| Do. from Cape Breton by the Rev.<br>Mr. Miller, - - - - -                                 |       | 7     | 10 |
| Do. Truro Society, - - - - -  |       | 8     | 6  |
| Subscriptions &c. for printing the Report,<br>per Robert M'Kay Esq.                       |       | 5     | 10 |
| Cash from servant girls' class,   |       | 14    | 0  |
|   |       | <hr/> |    |
|   | L. 43 | 8     | 9  |

## ANNUAL CASH ACCOUNT,

From February, 1823, to February, 1824.

## EXPENDITURE.

|                                       |      |           |                 |
|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------------|
| By Bill of Exchange for               | L.24 | 0         | 0               |
| Exchange - - - -                      | 2    | 13        | 4               |
| Premium at eight per Cent.            | 2    | 2         | 8               |
|                                       |      | <u>28</u> | <u>16</u> 0     |
| For printing the Report - - - -       |      |           | 5 0 0           |
| Charges on importation of Books - - - |      |           | 2 19 5          |
| Balance in the Treasurer's hand - - - |      |           | 6 13 4          |
|                                       |      |           | <u>L.43</u> 8 9 |