by the Rev. Dr Smith of Campbelton and others, but chiefly by the Rev. Dr Stewart of Luſs, by the appoint­ment and at the expence of the ſociety : and as ſoon as the remaining part can be got ready, the whole will be ſold at ſo low a price as the poor may without difficul­ty afford. This plan the ſociety have judiciously cho­ſen, in order to prevent diſcontent and murmuring ; ef­fects which the diffuſion oſ the Scriptures ought never to produce ; but which could not possibly have been prevented, had the diſtribution been gratuitous, and of courſe partial.

For ſome years paſt the funds of the ſociety have ra­pidly accumulated, from the very liberal donations of ſe­veral individuals.

Lady Glenorchy: L. 5,000

By a perſon unknown: 10,000

Lord Van Vryhouven of Holland 20,000 Miſs Gray of Teasses: 3,500

In conſequence of theſe great additions to their ſtock, inſinuations have been thrown out that the ſociety have become ſo wealthy as to be at a loſs for proper objects onwhich to beſtow their increaſed revenue. If ſuch an opinion be *ſeriouſly* entertained by any one, we muſt beg him to remember, that the ſociety have erected and endued no leſs than 323 ſchools for religion, the firſt principles of literature and induſtry, at the annual ex­pence of L. 3214, 10s. Sterling ; and that at theſe ſeminaries are educated from 14,000 to 15,000 chil­dren ; who, but for the means of inſtruction thus ob­tained, would in all probability be bred up in ignorance and idleneſs : That they employ 12 miſſionary miniſters and catechiſts in remote parts of the Highlands and iſlands, or among the ignorant Highlanders ſettled in the great towns of Scotland, at the annual expence of L. 296 : That they beſtow a burſary or penſion of L. 15 *per annum* on each of six ſtudents of divinity ha­ving the Gaelic language : That they employ two miſ­ſionary miniſters and one ſchoolmaſter among the Onei­da and Stockbridge Indians of North America (being the deſtination of certain legacies bequeathed to them for that purpoſe), at the annual expence of L. 140. Such is their fixed ſcheme of annual expenditure, amounting in all to L.3740, 10s. Sterling—a ſum it will be acknow­ledged of very conſiderable magnitude. The whole of their incidental expences ariſing from the Gaelic tranſlation of the Scriptures of the Old Teſtament ; from annui­ties which they have to pay, in conſequence of ſums left them as reſiduary legatees ; from land and houſe-taxes ; ſrom enabling candidates for the office of ſchoolmaſter to come to Edinburgh for examination ; from furniſhing books to poor ſcholars in their various ſchools ; and from removing ſchoolmaſters from one ſtation to an­other, is generally about L. 875, which added to the former ſum makes the whole annual expence amount to **L.** 4615, 10 s.

If it be inquired at what expence, in the ***management*** of it, this extenſive and complicated charity is annually conducted, we are authoriſed to ſay, that the treaſurer,

bookholder, and clerk, are allowed each L. 25 *per an­num,* the ſame ſalaries which were annexed to theſe of­fices from the commencement of the ſociety. The beadle or officer is allowed L. 12 *per annum.* No ſalary whatever is enjoyed by any of the other officers of the ſociety. The ſecretary, comptroller, accountant, and librarian, although ſubjected, ſome of them eſpe­cially, to no ſmall expence of time and labour, have no pecuniary recompenſe or emolument. Theirs are la­bours of love, for which they ſeek and expect no other reward than the consciouſneſs of endeavouring to pro­mote the beſt intereſts of mankind. The whole amount of the expence of managing the buſineſs of the ſociety, including the above ſalaries, and coals, candle, ſtationary ware, poſtages, and other incidents, exceeds not at an average L. 115 *per annum.* From this ſtatement it appears, that hitherto at leaſt the directors have been at no loſs for important objects within the proper ſphere of their inſtitution on which to beſtow their increaſed funds. They have, it is true, the diſpoſal of very con­ſiderable ſums for promoting the objects of the inſtitu­tion ; but they are ſo far from accumulating wealth, that every year their expenditure, notwithſtanding the late increaſe of their capital, exceeds rather than falls ſhort of their income. They have depended upon a kind Providence and a generous public to refund theſe anticipations of their revenue, and hitherto they have never been diſappointed.

Thus has the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Know­ledge proceeded for almoſt a century. It was founded by the pious exertions of a few private individuals, whoſe names are unknown to the world ; and its funds, by faithful and judicious management, as well as by ge­nerous contributions, have now become of ſuch magni­tude, as to excite the hope that they will be productive of the moſt valuable effects. The benefits ariſing from public ſocieties, it is well known, depend entirely upon the management of their directors. If ſo, the advanta­ges which have accrued from this ſociety inside it to the praiſe and gratitude of the nation. While eager to increaſe the number of ſchools, the ſociety have not been inattentive to their proſperity. In the year 1771 Mr Lewis Drummond, a gentleman in whom they pla­ced great confidence, was commiſſioned by them to viſit their ſchools, and to make an exact report of their ſtate and circumſtances. Again, in the year 1790, a commiſſion was granted to the Rev. Dr Kemp, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh and ſecretary to the ſociety, to viſit all the ſchools on their eſtabliſhment. This labo­rious and gratuitous task he accompliſhed in the courſe of four ſummers with much ability and care, and highly to the ſatisfaction of the ſociety. At his return he com­municated a variety of important information reſpecting the ſtate of the Highlands and iſlands, and the means neceſſary for their improvement in religion, literature, and induſtry ; an abſtract of which was publiſhed by the ſociety in appendixes to the anniverſary sermons preach­ed before them in the years 1789, 90, 91, and 92 @@(c).

@@@(c) It is well known, that the number of Roman Catholics in the Highlands is conſiderable ; but it muſt give much pleaſure to the Proteſtant reader to be informed, that the ancient malignant ſpirit of Popery has in that diſtrict given place to mildneſs and liberality. This is chiefly owing to the gentleman who ſuperintends the prieſts in that quarter, whoſe mind is enlightened **by ſcience** and learning. So far from being hoſtile to the