

**REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DICK
BEQUEST ON THE RURAL PUBLIC
(FORMERLY PAROCHIAL) SCHOOLS OF
ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND MORAY WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE HIGHER
INSTRUCTION IN THEM. PP.1-148**

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S. S. LAURIE

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*ON THE RURAL PUBLIC (FORMERLY PAROCHIAL)
SCHOOLS OF*

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND MORAY

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE HIGHER INSTRUCTION IN THEM

Simon
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At a meeting of the Trustees held on 26th May
1890—*Inter alia*,—

“The Clerk mentioned that in terms of the Minute of 6th March, the Report to the Trustees by Professor Laurie, the Visitor of Schools, had been printed with a view to being published, and that proof copies were some time ago sent to the Trustees for perusal. The Trustees, having considered the matter, now resolve that the Report be published, that 500 copies be obtained, and that the Clerk retain, for future occasions, all copies not required for distribution.”

Extracted from the Minutes by

GEORGE BAYLEY, W.S.,
Clerk and Treasurer.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OF SCOTLAND—RELATION OF THE DICK BEQUEST TO IT, AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ADMINI- STRATION.

THE first Reformation Document of national importance bearing on the education of the Scottish people is contained in the "First Book of Discipline, or the Policy of Discipline of the Church," drawn up by John Knox and others, presented to the nobility of the kingdom in the year 1560, and afterwards subscribed by the Kirk and Lords. This most interesting of all documents in the early history of post-Reformation education in Europe proceeds on the preamble that it is the "office and duty of the godly magistrate" so to "provide at the utmost of his power how [the Church of God] may abide in some purity in the posterity following." It maintains the duty of the State to be "most careful for the virtuous education and godly upbringing of the youth of the realm," "for as the youth must succeed to us, so we ought to be careful that they have knowledge and erudition to profit and comfort that which ought to be most dear to us, to wit, the Kirk and Spouse of