

Copy Letter of Instructions from the Convener of the Colonial Committee to the Rev. Allan Pollok, on his acceptance of the Chair of Church History and Pastoral Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COL. MISSION,
22 QUEEN ST., EDINBURGH,
26th November, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR,—

In the prospect of your departure on the very important mission you have undertaken, at the united call of the Church of the Maritime Provinces and of the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, allow me, in the name of the Committee, to offer you our heartiest good wishes and prayers for Divine guidance and blessing.

I do not think it at all necessary to obtrude upon you any counsels as to the discharge of duties for which, by their appointment, the committee have shown that they believe you to be perfectly competent.

On one subject only will I venture to renew in this form the Committee's instruction as to what is the true meaning and purpose of your nomination as Professor of Church History and Pastoral Theology. And I do so in this form, not because the matter needs to be cleared up as between you and the Committee, but because, in the present state of agitation in the minds of parties opposed to one another in the recent division at New Glasgow, there may arise the risk of our being misunderstood; and because I wish you to have the means at hand in this explanation of preventing our being misunderstood.

I take the liberty, therefore, in this form, of repeating, what you distinctly understand, that by your nomination as Professor, the Colonial Committee do *not* mean, on behalf of the General Assembly, to take any side on the subject which threatens to divide the Church of the Maritime Provinces.

The proposal for the nomination of a Professor was made to us, and we accepted it, and nominated you, on grounds totally apart from the question of an incorporating union of the Presbyterian Churches of the Colony. It was considered by us, on behalf of the General Assembly, simply as a proposal for coöperation in an effort to perfect the means of completing the Theological training of Ministers within the Colony itself. In accepting the proposal, therefore, the Committee make no change in the policy of non-intervention which the General Assembly has strictly adhered to in regard to the negotiations for union now about to close. In so far as you represent the Home Church as our nominee to the Chair,

you understand that you are the agent of testifying our desire to assist, as best we can, the efficient training of a native ministry in the Maritime Provinces; and you will lose no opportunity of making it understood that you are the personal representative only of a resolution on our part, amid whatever contending influences on the one side or the other, to promote the religious interests of Scottish Presbyterians abroad—giving every question its proper place of due subordination to that design, as the chief end of our existence as the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

With kindest wishes for your comfort and success in your self-denying effort to serve the Church in this mission,

I am ever,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

ROBERT H. MUIR,

Convener of Colonial Committee.

The following letter has also been received, addressed to the Convener of the Home Mission Board :

THE MANSE, DALMEY, EDINBURGH, }
24th November, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I have the farther pleasure to inform you, that, after anxious consideration of all the documents, and especially the extract minute of Synod quoted by you in your letter to me of date 3rd inst., Mr Pollok has resolved to proceed at once to Halifax; and I feel it to be of so much consequence that he should be as soon as possible in Nova Scotia, that I acquiesce in his resolution, trusting to your having made all those preliminary arrangements for his reception, of which it would have been satisfactory to us to have had some detailed account before he left us.

I am yours, very truly,

ROBERT H. MUIR.

On receiving this letter, the Convener made all the requisite arrangements as desired by the Colonial Committee. He was met in the most cordial spirit by the Board of Superintendence of the Theological Hall. Mr. Pollok's position was secured, and everything was done by the Professors already at work to show their cordiality in the new arrangement, when a letter was received from Mr. Pollok, dated Nov. 30th, in which he stated, that, after having taken his passage for Halifax, filial affection made him draw back at the last moment. The disappointment is keenly felt, but