

ALL TO THE REV. MR. BURNETT.

The quarterly meeting of St. Andrews congregation, Pictou, was held on the 13th inst. The meeting was largely attended and a resolution was passed agreeing to give a call to the Rev. Mr. Burnett, who laboured for four weeks last autumn in Pictou.

SURPRISE PARTIES.—As noticed elsewhere a surprise party waited on Mr. McKenzie, of Earltown, with a valuable collection of presents. A similar party from West Branch, River John waited on the Rev. Mr. McCunn, River John, and made him some valuable and handsome presents.

At Roger's Hill a similar incident took place. Some young men from Dalhousie section, hauled to the manse a large heap of hardwood split up and ready for use. On the same day Mr. John Douglas, Hardwood Hill, presented Mr. Fraser with a ton of coal,—all of which, as well as many other favours from numerous members of the congregation, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

SALTSPRINGS CONGREGATION.—A large number of persons in connection with St. Luke's Church, Saltsprings, with due consideration for the comfort of their pastor, Rev. James Fitzpatrick, turned out with teams and hauled to the Manse for his use more than a year's fuel of wood and coal.

That dread scourge diphtheria is still prevalent in this Province as well as in many other parts. There is no remedy for it known. One physician tries one specific and another tries another, without much success. People are not sufficiently careful in avoiding contagion. It is now believed to be proved that the germs of the disease may exist in closets and in clothes for twenty years and after that breed disease and kill people. No home in which a case of this disease has occurred is safe from danger until every part of it and all its contents have been thoroughly cleansed and aired.

A discussion has been going on for some time in the *Celtic Magazine* as to the Gaelic version of the sacred scriptures. The discussion has been carried on chiefly between the Rev. Dr. Clerk, Kilmallie, and Rev. Dr. Masson of Edinburgh. It appears that some incorrect expressions occur in it. It is likely that a new version may be produced in the course of time, in which small inaccuracies of expression may be rectified.

THE death of Professor McKerras, of Queens College, Kingston, is also announced. He was a native of Scotland, and a graduate of Queen's—was a distinguished orator—and most enthusiastic worker in Church matters. He laboured with much success in collecting subscriptions throughout the Upper Provinces on behalf of the university in which he taught; and while engaged in that labour caught cold which brought on the fatal disease which ended in death.

WEST BRANCH RIVER JOHN.—On Christmas day the West Branch River John section of the Earltown Congregation drove to the Manse and presented their Pastor, the Rev. Mr. McKenzie with large quantities of potatoes, oats, flour, meal, cheese, tea, sugar, blankets, yarn, mats and other valuable articles of furniture to numerous to mention. They also presented him with a handsome purse of money. The value of the whole may be estimated at about \$60. After dinner which was prepared by the ladies, several of the gentlemen present made speeches suitable to the occasion. After wishing both Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year the cheerful crowd drove home in regular procession. It was a pleasant sight to see so many sleighs winding along the road until they all disappeared. This speaks well of the West Branch people. They have distinguished themselves before by getting up a "Surprise party" and their continuation of the same is ample proof of their kindness and liberality. It is among such people that a pastor finds encouragement to work. Here is an example to other congregations to go and do likewise. Com.