

To the Rev'd Neil Brodie, Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia in connexion with the Church of Scotland:

DEAR SIR:

We, the undersigned, as a committee in behalf of your present pastoral charge, of Middle River and Baddeck, beg to embrace the present occasion of expressing to you our grateful appreciation of your arduous labours of love amongst us since your arrival in this country. Our appreciation of these labours is further enhanced when we consider the many difficulties and discouragements under which you have so unflinchingly discharged them. These difficulties were, perhaps, to a certain degree natural, in the ordinary course of human affairs, but certainly not creditable to an intelligent humanity, when we see that they have originated in the main from the conduct of men whom we should expect to be guided by the teachings of a higher and purer wisdom than worldly polity. You, sir, are already aware that the Church of Scotland was for many years obliged to leave her adherents in this Island unsupplied with the means of grace, until Nova Scotia proper and the adjoining Provinces were to a certain extent supplied in the vacancies caused by the secession of 1843. This, though a sad want to us, was unavoidable on the part of the Church justly claiming our allegiance. We had in the interim to avail ourselves to a certain extent of the services of the ministers on hand; yet, we can truly say that we took no man's labor for nought, while they quite as willingly received our worldly recompense as we did their spiritual teaching. So much was this the case that it was sought to make these payments binding on us by perpetual bonds.

As soon as the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia got her pastoral vacancies in a measure supplied, the Presbytery of Pictou kindly remembered our destitution and supplied us by occasional deputations, increasing in numbers and frequency as their own means increased. We, of your present pastoral charge, were ready to give a call to a minister of our own Church in the year 1851, and actually had such a call prepared and numerously subscribed to in that year, but could not then obtain a permanent Pastor. With the exception of the Rev'd Mr Gunn, resident in Cape Breton, there was no stated Pastor belonging to the Church of Scotland, in this Island, until your arrival in December 1863. While the adherents of the Church of Scotland were waiting thus long and patiently, the Church under the cognomen of Free, claiming to be itself the "true Church of Scotland," enjoying "spiritual independence," as suddenly vanished from the horizon. Being so long in possession of the field, its ministers came to regard themselves as the sole proprietors thereof, and seem totally unable to comprehend the fact that plain laymen should maintain their allegiance to their Parent Church during the years in which they themselves had undergone so many insective changes. It is thus that the adherents of the Church of Scotland in Cape Breton are so frequently branded as rebellious "schismatics," "under scandal," &c., &c., and her ministers as "promoters of division." &c. If, sir, our steadfast adherence to the Church which our forefathers have reared at the expense of their lives, and by ministrations of which we were in infancy admitted to the visible Church—if a conscientious adherence to our belief in the Westminster Confession of Faith as a rule of practice in our Church and as being founded on the Holy Scriptures, and which our fathers for themselves and us, and we for ourselves and our children, have publicly and solemnly declared to be our purpose to maintain—if, we say, the maintenance of these things merit

the accusation of schism, then do we plead guilty to the indictment laid against us. If, sir, it be causing divisions for yourself and your brethren in the ministry in your Church to break to us the bread of life, and to govern yourselves and us by the aforesaid formulæ and in accordance with your solemn ordination vows (which formulæ you and our accusers have sworn equally with yourselves to observe)—if, we say, this be sufficient grounds for the accusation of causing divisions and strife, then may you too plead guilty to the charge. If, on the other hand, such a line of conduct on your part and ours does not merit the accusation, then has the indictment a most unhappy application to the framers of it, and leaves them in the unenviable dilemma of reconciling their own recency to that Church which committed so great and solemn a trust to their keeping with the solemn vows entered into with her that they would be faithful to their trust. Neither ought we to forget that it is to the liberality of the Church of Scotland that Cape Breton owes its first and earliest formation of schools.

We have thought it necessary thus briefly to define our position in regard to the Parent Church, for those are not wanting whom in former years we contributed to support, that attempt to make very different representations of these matters to you and other strangers in our land.

Please do us the favor to tender to your brethren composing the Presbytery of Pictou, our sincere gratitude for their exertions in supplying our spiritual wants from time to time, beyond what even circumstances and distance would warrant us to expect.

We feel that our thanks are especially due to the Rev'd Alexander McKay for his able representation in our behalf before the Colonial Committee of the Church at Home, and to whom, under Providence, we owe this day the blessing of having you, sir, to labour in our midst.

Please accept of our grateful acknowledgments to yourself, for your indefatigable labours for our spiritual well-being since your arrival amongst us, and also for your lessons of Christian charity and forbearance, taught to us both by precept and example, in times of trial.

We beg you to accept of this carriage as a tangible, yet simple token of the affectionate regard of your flock, praying that you may be spared to wear it out in our midst; that it may then be our privilege to present you with a better; and that when you shall have done with all earthly conveniences, you may be borne on the Everlasting Gospel to the city of the New Jerusalem, there to receive the encomium—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Signed in behalf of the aforesaid Pastoral charge at Middle River Church, this 12th day of August, 1865.

JOHN H. MCLEOD, J. P.	} Committee.
JOHN MCLENNAN, J. P.	
HECTOR CAMPBELL, J. P.	
KENNETH FINLAYSON,	
ALEX. MCRAE, J. P.	
JOSEPH HART, J. P.	
DONALD FINLAYSON,	

REPLY.

MIDDLE RIVER, C. B., Aug. 19, 1865.

GENTLEMEN:

I thank you for your very valuable present to me, and through you, all the friends who so generously acted in this matter.

I hope I may be enabled to use its strength, as also my own, in the great service to which you have consigned this gift, and so pass smoothly over the rougher parts of this wondrous road, bearing ever with me the "dying of Him who is