

Answers have been received to this Circular Letter addressed by the Rev. Dr. Cook, Moderator of the General Assembly in 1859, to the Synods, Presbyteries, and Ministers of the Churches in the Colonies of Great Britain and Ireland, in connexion with the Church of Scotland; from these answers we give the following reply :

*From the Synod of Nova Scotia.*

MANSE, BELFAST, P. F. I., Jan. 23rd, 1860.

DEAR SIR,—As Moderator of the Synod of Nova Scotia, it affords me sincere pleasure to acknowledge the joy with which we received from you the communication of the General Assembly of our beloved Church, addressed to us in common with the other Synods and Churches scattered over the wide and distant colonies of our empire.

Many and strong are the ties which bind our affections to the Church of our forefathers, we were early trained to regard her with unfeigned veneration and love. Within her sanctuaries, our dear departed friends, whose names and virtues we cherish in fond remembrance, were wont to join in the praises of God. There they received the instruction and the training by means of which, we trust, they were fitted to enter the inheritance of the saints, and mingle with the pure and holy in the realms of bliss. On this account we do, and we shall continue to love the Church of Scotland. We shall not cease to pray, "that peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces."

But, while we love that Church for our fathers' sake, still more strongly is our attachment entwined around her as our own Church—the Church to which, under God, we are indebted for the privileges we enjoy, and the hopes we cherish. As ministers of Christ, all our dearest associations cluster around her institutions. Neither distance nor time can weaken this feeling. I think we can, in truth, say, "If I forget thee, let my right hand forget her cunning."

Thus fondly attached to the Church of our fathers, it may easily be conceived with what feeling we received such undoubted proof of her remembrance and sympathy, as that conveyed in your truly Christian and affectionate letter. Often have many of us felt much need of encouragement and sympathy. In many ways we have difficulties to encounter that are unknown to our brethren in the parishes of Scotland. Our field is extensive, our number is small. Our labors are often exhausting to the mind and body, and in many cases, the minister is so isolated that he is seldom refreshed and cheered with the society and fellowship of his brethren. It is true, that in these circumstances there is nothing to justify any of us in regretting that we made choice of this field of labor. Were its difficulties unspeakably greater, willingly should we meet them all, in the service of our Divine master. When we remember His mission