

by *Monthly Record* and the interests of the Lay Association among its members. The Rev. Sinclair preached an excellent discourse, in which the meeting was constituted, and addressed by Mr. Sinclair on the necessity of a large and general support being given to the schemes of the church. Donald Fraser, Esq., of Pictou, also delivered an address in support of the same object, and his arguments were listened to with great interest. The meeting, in consequence of the weather, was not large, but was very harmonious. Every one expressed his willingness to do what he could. Two agents were appointed to extend the circulation of the *Record*, and are happy to be able to state that the Lay Association in this place continues to work—a considerable sum of money having been collected during the year.

MEETING AT PICTOU.

A meeting of the congregation of the town of Pictou, was held in St. Andrew's Church Monday the 10th ult., for the purpose of taking measures to revive and expand the various schemes of the church, more especially the Lay Association, the Young Men's Scheme, and the circulation of the *Monthly Record*. The chair was taken by Roderick Kenzie, Esq., and the object of the meeting briefly explained by John Costley, Esq., after which they were addressed at great length and with much earnestness and ability by the deputation from New Glasgow, James Fraser and John McKay, Esqrs., on the various schemes. Addresses were also delivered by James McDonald, Esq., Barrister, and the Rev. John Sinclair, on the same subject. The Lay Association was reorganized by the appointment of a staff of officers and secretaries, and a very respectable addition to the subscription list of the *Record* obtained. We understand that the number of the *Record* sent by the congregation this year will be at least 100, being more than double that of the previous year. The meeting, we are glad to say, was a most harmonious one, and we are confident a fresh spirit has been instilled into our ranks, and that they are now alive to the importance and the duty of giving a liberal support to the church of their fathers.

FRASER'S ACCOUNT.—LAY ASSOCIATION, PICTOU COUNTY.

Association in account with James Fraser, Jr., Treasurer.

1859.—Paid postage of correspondence with Col. Committee, £9 7 6
 8.—Paid Rev. John Sinclair, missionary, 25 0 0
 30.—Paid Rev. John Sinclair, missionary, 25 0 0

Dec. 7.—Paid Robt. Doull, Esq., for Monthly Rec., 20 0 0

	70 7 6
Balance,	128 12 5
	£198 19 11

1859. Credit.

June 29—By bal. in hand			
per acc. rendered, £177	15	10	
By Earltown Cong.,	2	8	8
Oct.—By N. Glasgow do,	6	8	6
Jan. 6, '60—By Barney's River Congregation,	2	3	9
Jan. 17—By Cape John Congregation,	1	13	1½
By River John Cong.,	0	17	6
By Rogers Hill Cong.,	5	14	6
By Pictou Cong.,	1	18	0½
	198	19	11
By balance in hand,	£128	12	5

JAMES FRASER, JR., Treasurer.

New Glasgow, Jan. 18. 1860.

REVIEW OF THE PAST MONTH.

The attention of Europe seems to be engrossed with the approaching Congress of Powers about to take place at Paris to settle the affairs of Europe. Speculation, as usual, is busy as to what will, and what will not be done. There can be no doubt that matters of the very gravest importance will be brought before it. Austria is in a most unsatisfactory state, full of fears and jealousies; with the great province of Hungary almost in open rebellion, and the Italian province of Venetia, protesting clamorously, against her continued subjection to Austrian rule. But Italy will be the great difficulty. The Duchies of Tuscany, Parma and Modena utterly repudiate their Grand Dukes, and to a man almost, demand constitutional liberty and annexation to Sardinia. The Romagna will be a subject of still greater difficulty. The vast majority of the people of the Papal States are eager to denude the Pope of his temporal authority, and to gain for themselves a constitutional form of government. In short, the work before this Congress is the most important, both in character and the results which may flow from it, which has engaged the minds of statesmen since 1815.

Throughout Great Britain the past month has been one of contentment and prosperity. Trade and commerce appear to be in a sound and vigorous condition, and there is a general absence of political agitation throughout the country. The Invasion panic has almost entirely subsided, but the volunteer movement is spreading itself more extensively and successfully than ever. It seems to be popular with all ranks, and is entered into *en amore* by almost every shade of party. At the same time the naval strength of the country is being increased with a rapidity and an energy which are giving unusual satisfaction.