

## THE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

### ORDINATION OF THE REV. PETER KEAY.

On Wednesday, the 15th November, the Presbytery of Saint John, in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, met, pursuant to adjournment, at Fredericton, with the view of ordaining to the office of the Holy Ministry the Rev. Peter Keay, who had recently arrived from Scotland, having been appointed by the Colonial Committee to labour as a Missionary in that district of the Province of New Brunswick.

The early part of the day was occupied in hearing Mr. Keay's trial discourses, and in those examinations in Literature, Philosophy, Ecclesiastical History, Theology, &c., prescribed by the Laws of the Church, in all of which Mr. Keay acquitted himself in the most satisfactory manner.

In the evening the ordination services took place in presence of a large and attentive congregation, assembled in St. Paul's Church. The Rev. Mr. Brooke, Minister of that Church, having narrated from the pulpit the steps taken by the Presbytery, and addressed to Mr. Keay the questions appointed to be put to all candidates for ordination, left the pulpit and entered a pew in front, where Mr. Keay with the members of the Presbytery were seated. Mr. Keay having knelt down, Mr. Brooke offered up the ordination prayer, in the course of which he and the other members of Presbytery laid their right hands on Mr. Keay's head, and solemnly set him apart to the office of the Holy Ministry. Prayer being concluded, the brethren present gave Mr. Keay the right hand of fellowship.

The beautiful anthem from the LI. chap. of Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings," &c., so appropriate and suitable to the occasion, was then most effectively sung by the choir, after which Mr. Brooke addressed the young minister on the duties and responsibilities of the sacred office to which he had now been admitted; and the whole of this very impressive and interesting service was concluded by prayer and praise.

#### EXTRACT FROM MR. BROOKES CHARGE.

Let me exhort you to combine prayer with diligence. Without it is all will be vain. You may wear yourself out in study, you may exhaust the body with ceaseless toil, you may preach with all the zeal of Paul, and all the eloquence of Apollon; but, if prayer is restrained, "your labours will be all in vain; you will spend your strength for nought." But earnest believing prayer will bring down a blessing upon all your exertions. The Spirit is promised in answer to prayer; and the seed sown, being watered by His heavenly influences, will take root, and spring up, and yield an abundant increase.

It is to me and many others a cause for great thankfulness that "He who is the great Shepherd of the sheep" should have put it into your heart, my dear brother, to leave home and kindred, and to come to these distant shores, to look after some portion of the flock of Christ now scattered in the wilderness, with no man to care for them. The desolate condition of many of our fellow-countrymen, natives of the British Isles, now residing in this Province, has appealed to

your Christian sympathy, and we rejoice to find that it has not appealed in vain. It was a sad change from the ample privileges, enjoyed by them in the land of their birth, to the utter destitution of them in many parts of this Colony. The lonely settler in the dense forest seldom hears the voice of a Minister of Christ. The Sabbath comes round but it brings with it few Sabbath consolations to him. "The church-going bell," with its dear and allowed associations, breaks not the stillness that reigns around these sequestered dwellings. The invitation to "go up to the house of God" is never heard, the voice of the preacher is to them an unwanted sound. We have long sent forth a loud cry across the Atlantic wave, beseeching our brethren to "come over and help us." But for many a day it seemed as if that cry was either unheard or unheeded. And we, who were stationed like solitary outposts scattered here and there over the land, being left so long unsupported, began to experience that sickness of heart that arises from hope deferred. A brighter day, I trust, has now dawned on the prospects of our Church in this Province. The arrival of no less than three fellow-workers within our bounds, in the course of a few months, we hail with pleasure as a promise of better things. And I trust the day is not far distant when our Church shall have multiplied her labourers so far as to enable her to minister the consolations of religion to all in this Province, who, in the midst of much disappointment and many trials, have so faithfully adhered to her. We welcome you with heartfelt pleasure as a helper in the work; and in admitting you among us to the full status of an ordained minister, and sending you forth to labour in the various localities where the adherents of our Church are to be found, we now most cordially bid you God-speed. I can tell you for your encouragement, as the result of an experience which, during the fifteen years that I have spent in these Provinces, has been pretty extensive, that, wherever you go, you will witness the manifestation of great earnestness to hear the Gospel, that you will meet with a kindly welcome and hospitable reception in every dwelling. The demand for your services will be great; for, had we a dozen more, we could find ample work for them all. It is an arduous duty on which you are entering, but, though it has its difficulties and its trials, you will find it has also its comforts and its consolations. For a time your labours will not be confined to any particular locality; but I have no doubt that, should you be disposed to withdraw from the field of Missionary work, and to settle down as minister of a particular congregation, you will soon find more than one place anxious to secure the benefit of your ministrations.

It is my earnest prayer on your behalf, my brother, that "you may approve yourself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."—"an able Minister of the New Testament;" that many souls, rescued from the power of sin through your instrumentality, may be seals of your ministry, "your joy, your crown of rejoicing, in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming."—*Halifax Monthly Record for March.*

#### THE MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column respecting this very interesting periodical. The Montreal Presbyterian is the organ of our Church in Canada,

and for several years past it has been much read in the Lower Provinces, it being for a time the only publication in this part of the World devoted to the interests of the Church of Scotland. Our people are greatly indebted to it, both for its intelligence as to the proceedings of the Church, and for its excellent devotional articles, which, we trust, have been instrumental in leading many to a deeper knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. We hope that it will still continue to be taken. Although we are very anxious that every family belonging to the Church should take a copy of this journal, yet in the case of many the subscription is so small that this need not prevent them from continuing to read the "Presbyterian." Though our lot is cast in different Provinces, we are the members of one Church, and the more closely we are bound together and the more we know of each other the better. We look forward to the time when, as this country opens up, there will be much greater communication, between the different branches of the Scotch Church in these Colonies than at present; when, perhaps, they may form but one organization, there being provincial synods and a General Assembly for British North America.—*Halifax Monthly Record for February.*

#### YOUNG MEN'S EDUCATION SCHEME.

It will be seen from another page of this journal that large sums have been collected in the Presbytery of Pictou during the past two years for the purpose of assisting a number of young men in their education for the ministry. Rather than attempt a College imperfectly equipped with Professors, it was deemed advisable, in the present state of the Church, to send a few well qualified young men, natives of the Province, to the Universities of Scotland, and to render them such assistance as their circumstances might require. Accordingly 4 young men of high character and attainments were selected by the Presbytery of Pictou; and, after having been duly examined, they were recommended to proceed to the University of Glasgow. Soon after two more left for Queen's College, Canada, so that there are now six young men, natives of the County of Pictou, studying abroad for the ministry of the Church of Scotland in this province. With one exception they all speak the Gaelic language, a circumstance of great importance, as much difficulty is experienced in obtaining Clergymen from Home who have this qualification. We believe that, in the present state of the Church and of the Province, a more judicious course could not have been adopted. The question of University Education must in a few years attract a greater amount of attention and be more satisfactorily disposed of than at present. In the meantime, so long as the Church has not the means of Theological education within herself, there are great advantages connected with the Young Men's Scheme. If God spare them to return, they will be thoroughly educated. Most of them will have enjoyed the opportunities and advantages of both the Old and the New World, and, while from their birth and early education they will be identified with the people of this Province, they will be able to impart to them the benefits they have received from being brought into contact with the great currents of thought that run through the present age, and they will strengthen the hallowed bonds that bind them to the Church of their fathers. Already most favourable accounts have been received as to the progress of all of them, while some of them have very highly distinguished themselves. Our Church has thus the prospect of receiving in a few years a strong re-inforcement of well qualified ministers, natives of the Province. We require, however, immediate assistance from Home; but from the fact that the supply is constantly increasing, as well as from intimations which have been received by different ministers in the Province, we have good reason to believe that several of our most destitute localities will soon enjoy the services of fixed pastors.—*Ibid.*