

church was crowded to overflowing : so that the appearance at the door resembled that of a beehive about to cast, while many stood and listened at the open windows. At the close of the prayer, I managed to squeeze in ; but it was with difficulty that I could get along the passages, which were in part furnished with seats, long since occupied, and in part filled by those who had failed in obtaining seats. At length room was made for me in a seat already too full, and there I sat till the close of the sermon. I have no wish to enlarge upon the picture.—Let me only state, that the attendance kept up during the whole day, and that, when we met in the evening, there was again a crowded house, and the attention of the people seemed unflagging.

On Monday the weather looked lowering. Rain fell in the morning, and the Gaelic congregation met in the church, and, after a short interval, the English ; and on no day during the whole occasion, was the church more crowded. Numbers, I am told, had to go away, who could not obtain admission.

The state of things was similar the following week at McLennan's Mountain, quite a retired country place. I have been told of persons, who came fifty or sixty miles for the express purpose of attending the communion. The Gaelic congregation had here a better place of meeting than at Pictou. It was in a retired spot in the woods, within a hundred yards of the church, but quite shut out from it by trees. Here, too, there was an immense gathering ; and it is to be borne in mind, that when we speak of them coming long distances, it is not in easy railway carriages ; but on foot, or in gigs, or waggons, jolting over breakneck corduroy roads, one wheel often down, and another up, so as to leave the seat at an angle of ten or twelve degrees, and again righted, or over to the other side, while the body of the vehicle pitches like a ship with the wind right a-head. The main roads are certainly better, and in many places as good as at home ; but I have travelled some miles such as here described, and so must many that attended these sacraments. There was a larger number of communicants at the Mountain than on any former occasion.

I stated that Mr. McGillivray had the whole work to do in Gaelic at Pictou. And here again he was the sole Gaelic labourer. Such work is killing,—four days' speaking at each place, two days in succession outside, at the one, and three at the other. Can flesh and blood endure such hardships ? And yet the old soldier will rather spend and be spent in the service of his Master, than that the people should be sent empty away.

The church was crowded to suffocation long before the time of meeting, and I had to keep close to my guide, as he shouldered aside the people, and made a passage for me to the pulpit. The stair to the gallery, the pulpit stair, and every available nook or corner was filled. It was the same thing on the Friday or *ceist* day, and I could perceive no falling off on the Monday.

Oh ! what a field of usefulness for the true servant of the Lord, and the true son of the Church of Scotland ; greater in some respects, than the masses of heathenism in an eastern continent. These resemble the mighty forests on which my eye rests, where the bear yet prowls, and the axe has not laid low these ancient trees, and where years are required to bring them into a proper state of cultivation. But this resembles rather that field on which I gaze, where the trees have been brought low, and perhaps a crop or two gathered in, but which are now deserted by the settlers ; where the old stumps are putting forth anew their shoots, which, I am assured, in a few years, if now neglected, it will be as difficult to bring in as if never settled on before.

So is it with many parts of this country. The inhabitants have been trained up to fear God, and to serve Him ; but they are now in a great measure destitute of the means of grace. Soon these new shoots will outgrow the means of keeping down, which the few axes now in use can command ; and unless more be sent, the wilder-

ness will spring up anew, instead of becoming a fruitful field.—Soon many of these will be beyond the means which the ministers of the Gospel here can employ ; and if the tide of practical heathenism sets in, oh ! where may it end ? In heathen lands on which the Sun of Righteousness has never risen, it may be long before the word can fructify ; but here the fields are white unto the harvest, if only the reapers were on the spot. Other men have laboured ! Will none be stirred up to enter into their labours ? Brother, pray for us. May your readers unite in praying for us ; and for this especially, that the Lord of the harvest would send more labourers into his harvest.—I am, my dear Friend, affectionately yours,

ROBERT M'NAIR.

CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW.—On Wednesday this Rev. body met in the Presbytery House, Tron Church, at 12 o'clock.

Dr. Paton was unanimously elected from the Roll Moderator of Presbytery for the ensuing half-year, and took the chair accordingly.

A call was laid on the table from the parish of Kilsyth in favour of Mr. Alexander Hill, signed by 600 of the parishioners.

The Presbytery sustained the call, and Mr. Hill being present, it was put into his hands, and he signified his acceptance of the same, when trials for ordination were prescribed to him.

Dr. Hill reported that, in terms of appointment, he had presided at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper at St. Peter's Church on the late sacramental occasion, and had great pleasure in stating that the services were all conducted in the most agreeable manner, and the communicants numbered 331 on the occasion. He had much pleasure also in stating how reverently and devotedly the people behaved during the solemn season. Altogether, the appearances at that church were of the most promising kind for the gentleman who may be appointed to the charge ; and he (Dr. Hill) knew that there was a strong feeling in the congregation to have Mr. Cochran appointed as early as possible. He believed the Church Building Society had made an appointment in favour of that gentleman, and he expected a deputation would be present from the Society, before the Presbytery separated, to lay the necessary documents on the table. He might add, in the absence of Dr. Craik, that there was also a large attendance of children at the Sabbath school, and a number of teachers were under training. From these they had every reason to expect good to the church. The sittings there were now extensively taken, and he was sure, if Mr. Cochran is appointed, these will be greatly increased.

Subsequently a deputation of the Church Building Society appeared, consisting of Sir James Campbell, Mr. Macgeorge, and others.

The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting, at which Mr. Matthew Cochran, A. M., was duly appointed minister of St. Peter's, and laid on the table a letter of acceptance by Mr. Cochran of the same, and other relative documents, which were all sustained.

Mr. Macgeorge said the deputation hoped the Presbytery would proceed with the settlement of Mr. Cochran with as little delay as possible.

SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.—This Synod met here yesterday in the Assembly Hall, when the Rev. Mr. Nisbet, the Moderator, preached the usual sermon.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of a Moderator for the ensuing half-year, when Mr. Fowler of Ratho, Dr. Mitchell of Whitburn, Mr. Nicolson of Pencaitland, and Mr. Thompson of Ormiston, were severally proposed for that office. On the vote being taken, Mr. Fowler was declared to be elected by a majority of four over Dr. Mitchell, who stood second on the division list.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.—After the minutes were read,

Dr. Bryce stated, in allusion to that part of them which referred to the overture to last Assembly anent parish schools, that the declaration suggested by that overture was unanimously adopted by the Assembly, and now formed part of the acts of the Church. Since that period still more alarming danger was threatening the Church in her connection with the parish schools ; and it would be the duty of the Synod to take into its serious consideration what steps and measures may now be necessary.

Dr. Muir concurred entirely in what had fallen from Dr. Bryce. He thought the Synod could not rise without making known its mind on this most important subject. He would therefore move that a Committee be in the meantime appointed, to prepare the Report to the Synod in the evening on this question.

Dr. Cook seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and a Committee appointed accordingly.

Dr. Muir said, the Committee appointed at the forenoon seditur to take into consideration the matter of the parochial schools, had agreed to submit a series of resolutions, which they hoped would be adopted by the Synod. The Reverend Doctor then read the resolutions, which declared that the Synod held in esteem and admiration the parochial schools of Scotland ; that they considered that the religious and moral character of Scotchmen, and their respectable status and influence in society, had depended much, under the Divine blessing, upon those schools ; that cherishing a grateful recollection of the efforts that had been made to obtain those legislative acts by which these institutions had been rendered part of the Church of Scotland, they expressed a determination to keep them in the position that they now occupied ; that, as the distinct peculiarity of the parish schools was not only to afford a good secular education, but also a sound religious education, founded upon the teaching of the Bible and the Shorter Catechism, they were deserving of the support of all who desired the godly upbringing of the youth of this country ; and that, as the Synod viewed with regret and alarm indications in certain quarters of an attempt to separate the parish schools from the Established Church, and as they considered this to be dangerous to the best interests of the country, they agree to appoint a Committee of their number to watch over the matter, and, if necessary, to call a *pro re nata* meeting to memorialise Government or petition Parliament. Dr. Muir said he was very much tempted to enter into the subject ; but, in present circumstances, he thought it was better to avoid the discussion of it, more especially as those plans which seem to be concocting in certain quarters had not yet appeared so distinctly as to enable them to know what steps they might ultimately take. Dr. Muir concluded by proposing the adoption of the resolution.

Dr. Bryce, in seconding the motion, said it was quite true, as had been stated by Dr. Muir, that they did not know the exact shape which the opposition would take, but they knew enough of it to be aware that its design was to dis sever the connection that existed between the parish schools and the Established Church. The separation was demanded on the ground that the parish schools were sectarian. It was time, therefore, for them to take alarm ; for if, on the ground of sectarianism, the parish schools were to be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Church, the argument might apply to the Church itself, and the endowments now given by the State be taken away from her.

PRESBYTERY OF MULL.—This Reverend body met at Salen on the 6th current, and unanimously resolved to petition the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that such postal arrangements should be made as would prevent Post Office desecration of the Sabbath. The Presbytery also appointed a committee to watch over the interests of the Parochial Schools of Scotland.