

Stake Road. As usual, the house was crowded to overflowing. In the course of a short time it is expected and hoped that something will be done for the interior of the building. Could not a desk be erected which would answer equally for the teacher and preacher? Having now almost completed a creditable building, it is a pity that it should be left without being finished altogether. Luke xiv. 28, &c.

Leaving Wallace, I next proceeded to Rogers hill, where I had been appointed to preach on Sabbath the 20th of the month.—The weather being very fine I had anticipated a large attendance; but owing to the letter having not reached in time, the people were wholly unaware of the arrangement.—I walked out some miles. The morning was calm and beautiful, in harmony with the brightness of the day, and the sereno face of nature, as if engaged in her devotions, seemed to put on an aspect of solemnity befitting the occasion. On reaching the Church, in company with some others, I was delighted to find that the Gaelic people had met that day to hold a prayer meeting. So that, after all, I had an opportunity of breaking to them the bread of life.

It may be proper here to mention that my rounds among our people (at whose request I of course take up my abode in passing) it not infrequently happens that enquiries are made of me upon religious subjects. These of course I have much pleasure in answering according to the best of my ability. In my pulpit discourses, I endeavour as far as possible to avoid all controversial points, conceiving that there is enough in the Bible itself "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness," without trenching upon disputed ground. But I am always willing to resolve difficulties when questions are put to me apparently not out of idle curiosity, but from sincere desire to reach the truth. I am occasionally asked the nature of these "new views" which, under various names, seem to have some degree of notice in various quarters; and I do my best to show that the simple faith of our forefathers—embracing the weighty and precious truths which sustained them through life, and comforted them in the hour of death—is an equally safe and valuable guide for their children. It is not always to follow that the newest views are the truest views. I encourage the anxious enquirers to read carefully their Bibles, and to pray for grace to direct them to the knowledge of the truth. Upon the more obscure and difficult doctrines of religion I must perhaps be content to differ; but the piety is always the same; it can never be wrong. Vital, indwelling religion is superior to all mere theology, however plausible it may seem. Thus, in the language of the poet, may the simple-hearted Christian be wiser than the philosopher; says

She knows and knows no more, her Bible true,
With the brilliant Frenchman never knew,
Who that treasure reads, with sparkling eyes,
The title clear to mansions in the skies."

When engaged in the solemn exercises of devotion, on bended knee and with holy vows, men are nearest to the rich fountains of heavenly wisdom. "Commend me," said an old man when conversing with me about these "new views," "Commend me to the good old paths in which the pious hearts of old Scotia were wont to seek the heavenly Canaan. What was good for them will do for me." There cannot for a moment be entertained a doubt that our Catechisms and Confession of Faith are most valuable productions, and trustworthy exponents of divine truth. It will be an evil day when they are laid aside as antiquated documents; but before that time comes many a new view will have grown old, and passed away into the land of forgetfulness.

But I rejoice to think that, notwithstanding the influences around them, these ancient standards are the cherished objects of our people's affection. They refresh and edify their own minds by teaching them to their children; and I have not unfrequently been told by parents that it appeared to them that the shorter Catechism which comprehends the highest truths was so admirably constructed that nothing could surpass it for conveying, more especially to the youthful mind, correct and well defined religious ideas.

Nor, so far as I have had an opportunity of judging, has the good old practice of family devotion forsaken the households of the friends of our Church. Dark and cloudy will be the day when domestic religion is banished from the homes of our people.—It was the piety of Scotland that so long preserved her virtue uncorrupt and her faith pure in days gone by—that raised her up from the dust to stand with Kings, and made her wandering sons, scattered far and wide throughout the world, the champions and friends of every noble cause. Often, during my sojourn among our people, am I reminded of the beautiful description of our great national Poet, who in his "Cottar's Saturday Night," thus speaks of his rustic countrymen:

"The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious face,
They, round the ingle, form a circle wide;
The sire turns o'er wi' patriarchal grace
The big ha'-Bible, once his father's pride!
His bonnet reverently is laid aside
His lyart haffets wearin' thin and bare;
Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide,
He wales a portion with judicious care
And let us worship God,' he says with solemn air

"Compared with this, how poor Religious pride
In all the pomp of method and of art
Where men display, in congregations wide
Devotion's every grace except the heart.
The Power incensed the pageant will desert
The pompous strain and sacerdotal stole,
But haply in some cottage far apart
May hear, well pleased, the language of the soul
And in his Book of Life the inmates poor enroll

From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs
That makes her loved at home, revered abroad,
Princes and lords are but the breath of Kings
"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

Before concluding this Report, I may mention that I have been occasionally asked why Gaelic articles are not put into the Record. They would like something like what

appeared in the Rev. Dr. Norman McLeod's Magazine published some years ago.—Though it was only a column or two, it would be very acceptable. There are many of our old people who can read Gaelic. To these solicitations I reply by saying that I will mention their wishes when I see any of our Gaelic ministers; but that at present, or until some more assistance comes, I fear these gentlemen have too much to do to afford time for what might otherwise be to them a pleasure.

Reports of the Deputations to the Lower Provinces.

We direct attention to the Reports in other columns of our last year's Deputations to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as presented to the recent meeting of the Synod.—They will amply repay perusal and furnish satisfactory evidence of the great advantages resulting from such intercourse as has been now commenced and reciprocated by the Synods in the Lower Provinces. We have no doubt the forthcoming Report of Dr. George, the Delegate from this year's Synod will prove as interesting and instructive. We trust the interchange of Delegates will be persevered in.—*Presbyterian.*

Report of the Deputation to New Brunswick.

To the Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Established Church of Scotland.

In consequence of the sudden and lamented death of the Rev. Dr. McGill, the duty of laying before your Reverend Court a Report of your Deputation's Mission to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, devolves entirely on another member of the Deputation. This is the more to be regretted in the present case, as the Doctor's age, greater experience and more intimate acquaintance with Church matters in general and the state of our Zion in British North America in particular, would have enabled him to lay before you a more detailed and satisfactory account of your Deputation's doings, and of the state of the Church throughout New Brunswick. God, in His inscrutable wisdom, hath seen fit to appoint it otherwise, and to his dispensations however severe and mysterious, we must humbly submit firmly believing that, though the Church at large, and especially his own family and people, mourn the loss of a pious and devoted servant of the Lord Jesus, the change to him was an unspeakably great gain.

The Synod of New Brunswick met on Thursday, the 16th of August, in St. Andrew's Church, St. John.

Dr. McGill had previously visited several of the congregations within the bounds of the Synod, officiating at St. Andrew's, Fredericton, &c.

When the commission from your Synod was read, the Deputation received a most cordial welcome; their names were added to the Synod Roll and they were invited to take a part in the business of the Court. During the sittings of the Synod, and the time your Deputation spent within its bounds visiting the different congregations, preaching, and laying before them the mission with which your Deputation was charged, they cannot but record with delight and gratitude the hospitable re-