

language might mayhap be a little coarser, the style no doubt the same.

My "youth and inexperience" are brought against me as a fault, and contrasted with the character and accomplishments of Dr. Cook. On this, I would ask you to read the reply said to have been made by Pitt to Walpole, who had taunted him with being a young man. I shall quote two sentences for the refutation of your memory:—

"The atrocious crime of being a young man, which the honourable gentleman has, with such spirit and decency, charged upon me, I shall neither attempt to palliate nor deny, but content myself with wishing that I may be one of those, whose follies may cease with their youth, and not of that number who are ignorant in spite of experience. Whether youth can be imputed to any man as a reproach, I will not, sir, assume the province of determining; but surely age may become justly contemptible, if the opportunities which it brings have passed away without improvement, and vice appears to prevail, when the passions have subsided."

If it is possible for anything to be more ungentlemanly than those remarks I have referred to, a third remark of yours is such. A sneer is there cast at me as having been the minister of Barney's River. As an after dinner joke, it might do very well, and my good nature might bear it, but to see it thus publicly set forth in the organ of your Church, is more than I could have expected of you. I have nothing to be ashamed of, in having been minister of Barney's River, but of the behaviour of the Nova Scotian Church towards me. I accepted of that charge, although poor, because I saw it to be destitute; I faithfully performed the duties of my office, while among you, travelling and labouring for the good of the Church, and here is my thanks, sneered at because I was once minister there. I am not sorry, however, at having spent three years in Nova Scotia, for there I learnt, to my sad experience, what I had long known, but never learned so fully to appreciate, that the minister of the Gospel must look higher than man for his reward.

But this sneer appears in a worse light when it is marked as being founded on a distinct untruth. I have not in my letters brought a charge against a single individual, much less against Mr. Paton; if he had had the sole management of the fund, I believe there would have been no reason for my fault-finding. Your experience of the world, sir, ought surely to convince you that a public board in its actions, often goes against the opinions and wishes of an individual or individuals who may be members of that board.

In conclusion, I may state that other clergymen have written Dr. Cook as strongly, yea, perhaps more strongly than I have done. Perhaps you will be kind enough to find out

from him, why he did not publish these letters also.

I am,

Yours, &c.,

JAMES MAIR.

The Manse, Martintown, C. W., }
20th February, 1863. *}*

THE MANSE, WEST BRANCH, }
March 3rd, 1863. }

MY DEAR MR. COSTLEY,—

I hope you will pardon me for drawing attention, even at this late hour, to two articles which have appeared in the February No. of the *Monthly Record* (and which I had intended to have noticed in the March No.), which contain reflections which I humbly think are not by any means calculated to promote either the interests of the *Record* or of our Church in Nova Scotia.

The articles to which I allude are the following:—

1. THE CANADA TEMPORALITIES FUND OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND; and
2. THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY.

In the former of those, the late minister of Barney's River is spoken of in terms which certainly cannot be pleasant to him personally, nor by any means agreeable to his numerous friends in his late congregation. The writer of the article in question very flatly characterizes the letter of Mr. Mair as "extremely foolish and uncalled for." He further states: "The spirit in which he—a young and comparatively inexperienced person—addresses a man of the character and accomplishments of Dr. Cook, is very painful, and the charges which he brings against Mr. Paton . . . simply absurd." Further: "Just imagine the late minister of Barney's River lecturing the Manager of the Bank of British North America how to invest funds. . . ." This, and more of a kindred spirit, may be seen in the article mentioned, accompanied by an expressed hope that "when the excitement is passed, Mr. Mair will apologize."

Permit me to remark that my personal acquaintance with the gentleman thus brought before the public, is but slight; and that any remarks which may follow are not dictated by any feelings of personal friendship for him as an individual, but would be made equally in the case of any other, and particularly any of my brethren. Let me say that the remarks quoted above are to me—as I have reason to know they are to many—very painful. Mr. Mair is a minister of our Church, and but lately a member of the Presbytery of Pictou. He left Barney's River with very good certificates from that Presbytery, and now occupies a very important charge in Canada. It would appear that he has lately considered himself wronged, and has gone to the public press to state his grievances. I have no doubt but he considered that he was quite able to rectify the wrong or to prevent its recurrence,