

Though he was aware that "some," indeed, "did" preach Christ, "of envy and strife, and some of good-will," &c., "What then?" says he, "notwithstanding every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

In no place in this county has this Church building proclivity taken such a general hold on the public mind, as at the Albion Mines. For a considerable length of time after the Association had begun operations here, the want of a proper place of worship was seriously felt, and deplored. Under this impression, some years ago, a snug and commodious Church, in connexion with the Church of England, was built under the superintendence of Henry Poole, Esq. At that time, such an undertaking was considered very creditable, though the people generally contributed towards its building funds, and any one that would predict that, within the limits of one year, ending in March, 1864, three capacious and splendid Churches would be built on the Mines, by the inhabitants, would be considered a visionary and fit inmate for a lunatic asylum. The Wesleyan Society, United Presbyterians, and the adherents of the Church of Scotland, have each of them built very handsome Churches within the same period. I am not sufficiently well-informed to describe either the actuating motive that prevailed in building the former two of these Churches, or the mode adopted to procure the necessary means; suffice it to say, that one of them has already been opened for Divine service, and the other is making satisfactory progress, and will soon be occupied in a similar manner. But being more conversant with the building of the latter of these sacred edifices, I am in a position to give a more satisfactory description thereof.

The adherents of the Church of Scotland, at the Mines, claim connection with St. Andrew's congregation in New Glasgow, and, though the distance is little more than two miles, the pastor of St. Andrew's Church—the Rev. Allan Pollok—always lamented the irregularity of the attendance at Church, of his people at the Mines, though, in a great measure, he would sympathise with them, as hard-working men, whose physical powers needed rest, and, for that purpose, sometimes, took advantage of the distance to Church, on the Sabbath. He considered it very desirable that a place of worship should be erected on as central a site as possible, that all his own people might have easy access thereto. The idea originated with himself, and, having communicated his views to a few of his friends, and found them rather inclined to concur with him on the subject, he called a general meeting of his own people, at the Mines, on the 8th December, 1862, and proposed the formidable project to them. After explaining the desirableness for a working class of people to have a place of worship within a short distance of their respective homes, and ascertain-

ing that the general opinion was favourable to his views in the matter, he headed a list with a very liberal subscription, and pledged himself to procure at least £100 more, from extraneous sources,—a pledge which he has since fully and honorably redeemed. The people, seeing the disinterestedness and liberality of their truly beloved pastor, in a matter in which they alone were so deeply concerned, voluntarily and cheerfully appended their names, with very liberal subscriptions. Soon afterwards, an application for a site in a central locality, was put into the hands of James Scott, Esq., Agent of the General Mining Association. That gentleman, after due consideration, with characteristic urbanity, intimated that the site on which the Church now stands was at the disposal of the congregation, at a nominal rent, on a lease renewable every ten years. Such a short lease, in ordinary circumstances, would have a tendency to discourage parties concerned, from proceeding with such an expensive building; but, in this instance, such was the implicit confidence of the people in the generosity and magnanimity of the Association, as represented by their accredited agent, that not one murmur was expressed against the terms. On January 28th, 1863, the building was contracted for by Mr. Donald Grant, Joiner, New Glasgow, a gentleman well qualified for such an undertaking. According to contract, the Church was finished in February, 1864, and opened for divine service on the first Sabbath of March, by the Rev. Allan Pollok, assisted by the Rev. Simon McGregor. The sale of pews took place on the following Monday, when upwards of 60 were sold. It was really gratifying, on that day, to see young men purchase pews, who never, until then, considered it a duty to support any religious scheme.

The Church is designated St. John's, and a more commodious and comfortable place of worship is not in the whole county. It will accommodate 600 people, and is warmed by hot air, on the most approved principle.

There are several circumstances peculiar to it, worthy of notice. Mr. Pollok, the sole instigator of the building of it, must have been well aware that the people, for whose use and benefit it was built, would, as early as possible, endeavor to secure the undivided services of a clergyman for themselves, and thus deprive his own congregation of all the support that they now receive from this section, and I am not aware that he has any guarantee that, in case of such a separation, his stipends would not be proportionably reduced. The only guarantee that he has, is a consciousness of having discharged a very important duty, and a dependence upon the good sense of his people in the New Glasgow portion of his congregation, who manifest the same interest in this infant Church as those more immediately connected with it, though they know well that there is a prospect of this section forming itself into a separate charge, at no