

and three others are now being rapidly proceeded with. The improvements in the use, the comfort, and the architecture generally of these buildings, offer a most favourable contrast to the lean-like structures which were formerly deemed sufficient. The new church in New Glasgow, particularly, may be referred to, as presenting a beautiful example of what can be effected with wooden materials, in the Gothic style of building. In the aggregate, the cost of these seven churches may be estimated at over £7000 currency. The people are also beginning to erect manse for their ministers, and there are now three of these erected, besides others which are in contemplation.

In 1855, a further addition was made to their numbers, by the arrival of Mr Harper. He continued labouring as a missionary, under the superintendence of the Presbytery of Pictou, up to the month of October 1856, sometime after which he withdrew to the Presbytery of Halifax.

Such was the state of matters until the meeting of Synod which was held at Pictou in the month of July 1856. At that meeting Mr Snodgrass, the minister of Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, gave in his resignation of that charge, having accepted a call from the congregation of St Paul's, in Montreal. The care of the vacated charge fell, in consequence, almost entirely upon the Presbytery of Pictou, as also the renewed trouble of attending at Presbytery meetings on the island. Fortunately, they were not longer compelled to undergo this additional labour. The opportune arrival of Messrs Macrae and Lochhead, to occupy the field and to more, afforded the pleasing prospect that the Church in Prince Edward Island would be established upon a firmer basis than at any previous period. In the month of November, 1856, these missionaries were called, one at Charlottetown, and another at Georgetown; and thus all necessity for visiting the island ceased.

Shortly thereafter, Mr Macrae arrived at Pictou, and in the month of December, 1856, was inducted to the pastoral charge of the united congregations of the East and West Branches. His district, like Mr Maclean's, is also so extensive as to demand the services of an additional minister. But the people are not yet in a condition to support any extra burdens. Both of his congregations are at present erecting new places of worship; and when these are completed, they will be in a more favourable position for securing another pastor.

The next addition to the presbytery's numbers was caused by the arrival of Messrs Mair and Mair, in the month of November 1856. Mr Mair was invited, in the month of January 1857, to become the pastor of the congregation around Barney's River. His call was accepted, and he was settled accordingly on the 17th of February.

Mr Duff has also been called by the flourishing congregation of Wallace, and his installation will (D. V.) take place upon the 1st of April.

A rapid review of the above sketch will show that since the year 1852, our vacancies have decreased to seven, or counting six of these as three congregations, to four; and the number of ministers increased from two to seven. The vacant charges may, however, in reality, be reckoned as only three in number, for Lochaber and St Mary's, united, are at present too weak to support a minister by themselves, and must, therefore for a time, be under the superintendence of Mr Mair, together with that of my missionaries who may happen to be labouring in our field. Of these three vacant charges, one, namely, Pugwash, has lately made a most creditable effort to secure a pastor. That congregation, which was formerly viewed merely as an appendage of Wallace (although the churches are ten miles apart) has given a call to one of our Presbytery (Mr Maclean), and has subscribed the very handsome amount considering their numbers, of £106 currency. Whether the call be accepted or not, this fact is exceedingly encouraging, and the presbytery view the case of this congregation as one highly deserving of assistance at the hands of your Committee.

Another, Earlton, and West Branch, River John, recently purchased a manse and glebe, to accommodate the first minister who will appear upon the field suitable to their circumstances. But Gaelic is indispensable for them, and, consequently, they have hitherto been destitute. The congregations of Roger's Hill, and Cape John, are also exerting themselves to purchase a manse and a glebe, and are prepared to give all a call as soon as possible.

Before leaving the subject of our position and prospects, it will be necessary to notice the amount of stipend which has hitherto been contributed by the people. In no case has the guaranteed sum as yet exceeded £150 currency, that is, £120 sterling. The people of Wallace have, however, subscribed to the amount of £176 currency; but absolute dependence cannot be placed upon a sum exceeding the low standard mentioned above. But the congregation of Wallace deserves great credit for proposing separately to give a call; for hitherto, as, has already been observed, Wallace and Pugwash were counted as one congregation.

Barney's River has only guaranteed £64 sterling, at present; but more may be expected to be subscribed by degrees; and some assistance is looked for from Lochaber and St. Mary's. If, from every source, the people of that district can succeed in raising £120 currency per annum, they will have done their utmost for a few years to come. The town congregations, viz, of Pictou and New Glasgow, will soon, it is hoped, be in a position to increase the present stipend, which is certainly too small; but the former is at present burdened with the expense of a newly erected manse, and the latter with the debts upon their place of worship.

Altogether, the extent to which your

Committee will be liable for the stipends of the newly arrived and settled missionaries, is as follows:—to Mr Macrae, £30 to Mr. Mair £86, and to Mr. Duff £30 (all sterling); but these sums may be expected to be greatly diminished. It will thus be seen that the Presbytery of Pictou, for three of your missionaries, does not draw for a sum equivalent to the guaranteed stipend of one. Pugwash, as observed in a previous communication, will require assistance for some time after a minister is settled; but it is a thriving locality, which may soon be expected to be independent.

At present, there are none within our bounds actually engaged as a missionary (although we all do more or less of missionary work) for Mr Harper, who laboured in that capacity for nearly two years, has recently gone to the Presbytery of Halifax.

The Committee cannot conclude their Report without expressing their gratitude to the Almighty disposer of all events, who has so far prospered the labours of the Church as to restore this presbytery, and who is opening up a prospect of still farther extension, as time advances.

If we now succeed in obtaining the assistance of two Gaelic Missionaries, we would consider ourselves in a position for asserting that a foundation had been laid for the progress of our Church in the colony, which, by the blessing of the great Head of the Church, shall never be moved.

The Committee desires also to convey their thanks, on behalf of the Presbytery, to your Committee, for the abundant assistance with which they have been recently favoured, and which has tended so greatly to cheer them in their present labours, and to encourage them in looking forward to their future prospects.

In name of the Committee,
DONALD MACRAE.

Nova Scotia Bible Society.

The anniversary of this Society was held on Tuesday evening 5th ult., at Temperance Hall. The room was not crowded as it ought to have been. With this exception the meeting was all that could be desired by the most ardent lovers of the Word of Life. The platform was occupied by clergymen and laymen of many Protestant congregations of this city. Rev E. Maturin, after the singing of a hymn, offered fervent supplications in behalf of the objects of the Society, and that the divine Word might be universally known, revered, loved and obeyed.

The Rev Dr Twining, the President, expressed a high sense of the honor which the Society had done him in choosing him for its President, and, pledging his best abilities and attention to its interests, proceeded to give a condensed and most interesting statement of the proceedings and success of the Parent Society during the last two years, as no meeting had been held last year. The Report of the Society was then read by the Secretary S. L. Shannon, Esq., and proved a most in-