

The blue jay frequently crossed our path and gave hope, by its loud screams, that we should soon have rain, but this prognostication of the natives proved delusive. I arrived at the Church of Gairloch in good time for the afternoon service, this being the fast day. After the service I delivered an address to the people on Church matters.

Salt Springs, July 16.—It was with regret I bade adieu to the Highlanders of the county of Pictou. I felt refreshed in no ordinary measure by the warmth of their feelings and their religious earnestness. The weather was intensely hot, and I had to travel, almost every day in the week, long distances in open carriages exposed to the sun, yet the interest made one forget the fatigue, so that I was not conscious of any unusual effort till the work was over. I cannot pass from the subject of the state of religion in Pictou, without expressing a regret that so few should obey the command of Christ: "Do this in remembrance of me." The scruples that so long existed in the north of Scotland still linger here, so that few venture to sit down at the Lord's table. The good sense and scriptural views of the Highlanders of Nova Scotia are now leading them to see, that the ordinance is not designed to nurture the spiritual pride of the few, but to aid the faith of the many: already a goodly number of the young have been induced to come forward.

July 17.—Left Mr. McKay's hospitable manse by stage coach for Truro on my way to Halifax. It is due very much to Mr. McKay's efforts that so many missionaries have been secured for Nova Scotia. He went home for the purpose of engaging them, and the excellence of the selection is to be attributed to his skilful discrimination. Stopping at Truro I learned that our missionary, Mr. Phillips, recently settled there, is giving promise of great efficiency. In going by rail from Truro to Halifax, we skirted numerous picturesque lakes; most of them very long and narrow. They form the line of the Shubenacadie canal, connecting the bay of Halifax with the bay of Fundy. These lakes are so numerous, that only a mile or so of canal cutting was necessary. The character of this tract of country is wild in the extreme. The surface is everywhere strewn with huge blocks of stone and travelled boulders. At the Windsor Junction particularly, the aspect of the country is very striking. The whole is a confused mass of angular blocks of quartzite, with hardly a tuft of vegetation. On arriving at Halifax, I took up my abode with the Rev. Mr. Scott of St. Matthew's Church. He has now retired from active duty after a long period of exemplary faithfulness and singular wisdom in the service of the Church of Scotland. The acting minister is the Rev. Mr. Grant, who after a very distinguished career at Glasgow College, came out to serve the Church of Scotland in his native province.

Halifax, July 19.—Preached in St. Mat-

thew's Church in the forenoon. This Church was originally a Union Church, composed of members belonging to different religious denominations. The members were Congregationalist loyalists from New England, and Scottish Presbyterians. They compromised matters by electing a minister of the Church of Scotland to satisfy the Presbyterians, and by using Watts' version of the Psalms to please the Congregationalists. By the constitution, the minister can be chosen from any religious body, and the congregation have the sole right of removing him. This, theoretically, is not a very satisfactory constitution, but, practically, under the prudent and judicious ministry of Mr. Scott, it has worked very well.

Halifax, July 20.—In the evening a Church meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, the Hon. Mr. McNab in the chair. After he addressed the people on the usual topics, Mr. Grant spoke with special reference to Dalhousie College. This was followed by a speech from the Chief Justice, who has entered warmly into the project.

July 21.—A public meeting was held to hear Mr. McGee expound the subject of a union of the British Provinces, and the construction of an international railway. The meeting entered enthusiastically into the views of the speaker. All seemed to be taken by surprise with his chaste and classic oratory. The speaking by the other parties was highly creditable to the Province. Mr. Howe, the leader of the late government, amused the meeting very much by exalting the American virtue of bragging. Wherever he travelled he felt it his duty to brag of Nova Scotia, and if he could not gain an advantage on any other ground when speaking to foreigners, he was sure to be triumphant when he asked, How high are your tides? Nova Scotia, however, can boast not only of the largest tides, but of the largest coal seams and the largest deer in the world.

July 23.—Visited the Nile warship lying in the harbor under the guidance of Dr. Reid, the chief medical officer. I found that, from the Admiral downwards, the officers are chiefly Scotchmen; we felt quite at home in having the members of well-known Scottish families pointed out. Commander Hall, son of Capt. Basil Hall, explained the construction and the management of the Armstrong gun with which the ship was armed. The sailors look upon this breech loading piece with considerable apprehension, as the breech is sometimes blown out by the force of the charge. When the gun is to be charged the breech is quite open. The charge is put in; a flat breech piece is then applied, and a screw similar to the cell of the glass of a telescope is screwed down upon it. The whole force of the charge is thus thrown upon the thread of the screw which sometimes gives way. Sometimes the flat breech is expelled. The mil-shipmen enjoy a training very different from