

Letters to the Editor.

HOME MISSION.

Work in Cape Breton.

Dear and Rev. Sir,—Since my last I have paid one of my most interesting visits: a visit to Loch Lomond. A young man—humble, patient, kind, attentive on ordinances and to the word of the Lord—in the hope of a glorious resurrection, we laid in the last restingplace of all living, the morning I left this settlement. Next day we arrived at Loch Lomond. The heat of Cape Breton summers and the kindness of Loch Lomond people remain alike unprecedented in my life's history. Two weeks quickly passed, holding meetings and visiting, and then I left with an encouraged heart and a promise to return ere I leave the island. I held a meeting, according to previous arrangement, at St. Peter's on my way back, and had not an encouraging one.

Shortly afterwards we had our Communion Services both here and at Broad Cove; Revs. Dr. Masson and Wm. McMillan conducting them here; and Revs. Prof. McKerras, Dr. Masson, W. Stewart, J. F. Campbell, and A. Grant, at Broad Cove. The services were well attended at both places; and, undoubtedly, lasting good has been wrought, and many weak hearts encouraged and strengthened.

I am glad to report increased attendance on all my ordinary meetings (except at R. I., where the order seems to be retrogressive.) These meetings are conducted after the ritual of ordinary Sabbath services according to the "Directory" attached to our Confession of Faith, with more Scripture reading and wanting the sermon, for which latter I substitute a lecture on any such subject as, prayer, the Christian's death and eternity, Jesus as King, Priest, &c.—Our Sabbath Schools are not so promising as they might be, still we take courage. I have one here, but only when present myself, and then I address and teach the whole. At Port Hastings we have a Union School—under the joint superintendence of the Rev. J. G. Forbes and myself, with two lady teachers. At Kempt Road I have been enabled to institute a self-sustaining Sabbath School.

During the last three weeks I have been holding catechetical meetings in different parts of my congregations, the attendance at which ranged from 3 to 24. Of course, this was discouraging; but still it must be borne in mind that the indispensable acquirement necessary to attendance on these meetings by any of our sect, is to be able to repeat from memory some of, or all, the answers in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism.

CHURCHES.—At Port Hastings our congregation built a church, the outside of which was scarcely finished when it was burnt, accidentally or intentionally. The Union negotiations have retarded the progress of another, but now that there is so little hope of a Union, the people express great anxiety about a place of worship. For the present we have accepted the kind offer of Mr. McKeen of his Hall, for all our meetings. At R. Inhabitants, through the indefatigable labours of Rev. Jas. W. Fraser while here, we have a comfortable finished church. At West Bay and at Loch Lomond our churches are not finished; but while at the latter place I succeeded in getting the carpenters to work again.

Yours in the Gospel,

GEORGE LAWSON GORDON.

FOREIGN MISSION.

Letter from Rev. Hugh A. Robertson.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, }
April 8th, 1872. }

Rev. John Campbell, St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Editor Monthly Record, &c.—

REV. AND VERY DEAR SIR,—The *Day-spring* sails from this port at day-light on Wednesday morning, the 10th inst., and every person intending to go in her to the Mission-field must be on board to-morrow. She has been thoroughly repaired and painted since she came into port, and looks very well. She cannot possibly take all the Mission goods this trip, but is appointed to return to Melbourne in three months again, in order to take down the balance of the goods, &c. Besides all the mission's goods from Nova Scotia, belonging to Messrs. Murray, McKenzie, Goodwill, and Robertson, our personal property, the goods we purchased for ourselves in Glasgow, and those purchased there by me for Goodwill's Mission and my own, and all our