

is impossible that they can ever feel comfortable in their church relations. Common sense would say that it is not reasonable to assume that a minister can know immediately of every case of sickness among his people; and further that every slight indisposition is not to be regarded as requiring his attendance even when he happens to hear of it, as in that way much of his valuable time would be uselessly squandered; and his pulpit preparations invaded, to the general disadvantage of the congregation.

But—"to the law and the testimony," on this as on every other point of Christian and Ministerial duty. What does the word of God say? *let him call for the elders of the church*; and let them pray over him, &c.

PASTOR.

"THE APOSTLE OF THE NORTH."

NOTICE BY DR. BURNS.

Knox College, May 16, 1866.

Mr. Editor—'Tis sixty years since I first saw the "Apostle of the North." He had just come from his mission at "Berriedale" in Caithness, and he had all the marks that might be supposed to attach to the appearance of a vigorous and active Gaelic missionary. He belonged not to the Scandinavian but to the Celtic side of the county of Caithness—for there one side of the mountain range is Gaelic speaking, while the other is English—and his swarthy appearance and athletic mien marked him as a genuine son of mountainous Caledonia. We met at breakfast in the house of the Rev. Dr. Campbell, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, and Secretary to the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge, a man of great sagacity and a divine of great theological eminence. The Gaelic chapel had been erected some thirty years before, by the contributions of the Celtic part of the population of the city, aided by the generous efforts of Mr. William Dickson, a Christian merchant, whose name is honorably associated with the religious history of the Scottish metropolis in the latter part of the last century. The society which Dr. Campbell represented was formed and chartered in 1707, and had labored most efficiently in behalf of the educational interests of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It possessed the confidence of the Highland population in the city, and the patronage of the chapel was entrusted to its Directors for the time being. The predecessor of Mr. Macdonald was the Rev. James MacLachlan, afterwards minister of Moy in Invernesshire, and the father of two excellent ministers of the Free Church, Dr. Thomas MacLachlan, at present of the Free Gaelic congregation of Edinburgh, and Mr. Simon MacLachlan of Cawdor. From the date of Mr. MacLachlan's removal till the settlement of Mr. Macdonald, a considerable time had elapsed, and there was some danger of division among the members. But the judicious selection now made, chiefly by the skill and prudence of Dr. Campbell, removed all fears of that nature; and the settlement was very harmonious, and its results eminently salutary. Besides the ordinary Gaelic congregation who attended through the day, and who formed a large body of people, many who were not connected with the chapel attended the evening service, which for the first time was conducted by Mr. Macdonald in the English language. The prestige of Mr. M. was from the first exceedingly favourable; but he rapidly rose in estimation as a popular preacher, and was waited on by crowded assemblies. The place had no pretensions to elegance or even convenience, for it was confined, low-roofed, and locally, perched so high on the very face of the Castle rock as to be not very accessible. Nevertheless the English sermons of Mr. McD. on the Sabbath evenings, were among the lions of the religious