

GALT.

The U. P. Congregation here have called Mr. John James, Probationer, to be their Pastor. This promises to be a very happy settlement; and the circumstance of Mr. James so speedily obtaining a call, it is hoped, will act as an inducement to others in Scotland to transfer their services to Canada. The harvest here truly is plenteous, and the labourers few.

Gleanings.

DR. GUTHRIE ON DRUNKENNESS.

On Monday, 27th April, the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh received, by appointment, in the Council Chambers, deputations to present memorials from the public meeting of Monday preceding, and from ministers, missionaries, &c., praying that measures be taken for the reduction of the number of spirit licenses granted in the city. James Miller, Esq., Professor of Surgery in the University, presented the address from the meeting, after which, Dr. Guthrie said,—I was requested to accompany Professor Miller in presenting this memorial by the parties connected with the public meeting to which he has referred. I don't intend to occupy your time on this occasion, but I may say, that during seven years of my residence in Edinburgh as a minister, I spent my time in the worst localities of the city, and I almost broke my heart when I wandered from house to house, and from room to room, and saw nothing but misery, and wretchedness, and crime; and many a time I was tempted to rue the day when I left the blessed, sober, decent, country parish, and found myself called to minister in a place where, at every turn and at every corner, this most detestable vice of drunkenness, fed by those houses, met me and marred all my efforts, and led me to go home and say, "No man hath believed my report; to none is the arm of the Lord revealed." If there is one thing which I feel more intensely than another, it is this, that drinking is our national curse, and sin, and shame, and wickedness; and I speak the words of truth and soberness when I say, that I believe that that horrid vice destroys more men and women—body and soul—breaks more hearts, ruins more families, than all the vices of this country added together. They talk of exaggeration. It has been alleged that 60 millions of money—more than equal to the whole revenue of the British empire—is spent upon intoxicating liquors, and that almost 50 millions of that is spent by the working-classes of the people. Men say that is incredible. Incredible or not incredible, I refer any man to Mr. Porter's paper read before the British Association, where he demonstrates and proves, by figures taken from the different Government offices, that, in place of being an exaggeration, it is rather within the mark. I need not speak of the effect of these drinking habits on multitudes of the families in this country. Nothing struck me more in those wretched localities to which I have referred than this—that when I visited from house to house I found more than half of the families were in the church-yard. The murder of infants—the slow murder of innocent infants in this town far outdoes anything that Herod ever did when he slaughtered the innocents in Bethlehem. I believe there are hundreds upon hundreds of unhappy children who owe the termination of their lives to nothing else than the drunken habits of their parents. I appeal to every city missionary, I appeal to every minister in this town who does his duty, who visits these degraded localities, and takes an interest in the welfare of the people, whether the obstacle which meets him at every corner is not drunkenness. I believe you may build churches and plant schools in the city till they are sick as trees of the forest, but unless this enormous evil is to be stopped you will build churches and plant schools in vain. I am not speaking without book on this matter. I laboured for six or seven years, spending most of my time amongst these people, and I am giving you my experience. And just let me say this, that I spent seven weeks last summer on the Continent of Europe. I was in Paris during the day of the baptismal *fete*, when the whole population of Paris were let loose to