

we now have of receiving Missionaries, both Gaelic and English, to encourage them to remain steadfast in their adherence to the Church of their fathers, until we shall receive a supply of fresh labourers. The remainder of the business being purely congregational, I then left the meeting, and proceeded on my way to Earltown.

I may here take the opportunity of mentioning, what I have no doubt the Presbytery will be very glad to hear, if they are not already aware of it, namely, that in May last, the people of Earltown and West Branch, made the joint purchase of a lot of land as a Glebe for a minister, who, I trust, will soon come among them to enter upon possession. It is situated about two or three miles to the East of the Church of West Branch, and appears very suitable for the purpose for which it is intended. For this very spirited act, considering their present circumstances as a destitute congregation, I think they deserve all praise, and it appears to me that their excellent example in this respect, is well deserving of imitation by other congregations similarly situated, such as Wallace and Rogershill, which, I am fully persuaded, could, even more easily, raise the necessary funds for purchasing Glebes and building mansees, if they would only enter upon the undertaking with sufficient earnestness. I humbly conceive it is no argument to say, that it will be time enough for all this, when a man is actually settled among them. I think it will be all the more likely to encourage young men to come out and induce them to settle among them, if they find that the people have made preparations beforehand for their accommodation and convenience. The days of martyrdom are now over; and it stands to reason that if a minister of the Gospel is to be useful and his calling respected, he must needs be as comfortable and well provided for, as other men. More than this he does not ask, less than this he ought not to take.

I preached at Earltown on the 30th December, being the last Sabbath of the year, when after a lecture in the forenoon, I delivered a discourse in the afternoon suitable to the occasion. Considering the weather, which was unusually stormy, there was a good attendance, but still small in proportion to what I understand to be the number of our friends in that locality. As on other occasions, I had to regret the want of a knowledge of Gaelic, but the people were most attentive, and apparently very devout in their worship. Though some of them might not perhaps be able to understand every word in the sermons I delivered, I think that the marked attention which appeared to be bestowed on what was said, proved at least the interest they felt in the subjects discoursed upon, and gave me also a favourable idea of their respect for sacred things. During the singing, I observed none of that listlessness, which I am sorry to say I have seen in the case of some other congregations, as if the sooner that portion of divine service were got through the better, or as if the sole object—if indeed there were any object at all in attending the house of God—was to listen to the sermon. Now this should not be,—for although a sermon, founded upon a single text of scripture, has latterly grown into the more conspicuous, and to many the only attractive and useful part of the service of the Church, it was late in the history of christianity before it obtained this degree of prominence in the public exercises of religion; and it ought never to be forgotten, that prayer and praise have their claims upon the heart of the christian worshipper, as well as the preaching

of the word. We ought not therefore to attach undue importance to this department, to the neglect of the others, which are essential to our deriving real benefit from frequenting the Courts of Zion. It is true the gospel when faithfully declared and accompanied by the divine blessing, is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" but while, from the various degrees of talent and education, all may not be alike qualified to follow a discourse, it is in the power of every one, who has the willing mind, to profit his heart by uniting in the devotions. All ought ever to remember, with unspeakable gratitude, the declaration of Jehovah himself "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me." How cheering, how encouraging to all however humble, who truly call upon His name, to know that their prayers and praises are well pleasing in the sight of the Great Ruler of the Universe, the Rightful Lord of Angels and of men!

The Rev. Mr. Darrough, of Goose River, a gentleman alluded to in former reports, still continuing his esteemed services in our Church in Pugwash, on the second Sabbath of every month, not to interfere with his arrangements. I preached there, instead of at Wallace, on the first Sabbath of January, being the 6th of the month. The day, however, was exceedingly stormy; and consequently only a very few persons attended. It was my intention to have officiated at the Gulf Shore in the afternoon; but having been told that travelling in that direction was utterly impracticable, I gave up the idea.

On the following Sabbath, I preached in the Church at Wallace in the forenoon, when the attendance was tolerably good. After service, by the advice of some of the friends of the Church, I gave intimation of a meeting to be held in Wallace in the middle of the following week, the object of which would be to devise means for collecting funds to be remitted to the Clerk of Presbytery, for the purpose of being sent home as an expression of their gratitude to the Colonial Committee for the favour of receiving Missionaries. In the afternoon of the same day, I preached in a private house at the Ridge, there being as yet no stove in the School-house, Stake Road, where I used to preach for some time past. This is a great inconvenience and one which ought to be remedied as quickly as possible, for all that such an apparatus would cost. The house in which we met for worship was large, and filled to overflowing.

I may here mention that I was somewhat surprised on being asked, on this occasion, to intimate divine worship in the same place on the following evening, by a Lady Preacher, who for many years has been itinerating in different places as a Missionary, at least according to the information I received. Upon the whole, however, I thought it best to comply, as I had often before been reminded since I came out, of the fact that we live in a "free country;" and more especially as I understood that her principles were strictly evangelical. Just that, if in doing so, I have committed a mistake the Presbytery will have the goodness to excuse my fault. I am not unaware of the respect which our Church entertains for all that is contained in the writings of St. Paul, who in his Epistle to Timothy has left behind him no unequivocal testimony of his disapprobation of such a practice. But I think that the record of this fact ought to provoke the young men of our Church to jealousy, should they hear, that owing to their lukewarmness and backwardness in entering the Colonial mission field, the sword of the Spirit has been grasped

by a woman, whose only tangible reason for becoming a preacher of the gospel seems to consist, in the present very deficient supply of regularly constituted teachers, in this department of the vineyard.

On Sabbath, the 20th January, I preached in the Church at Pugwash, in the forenoon. I drove down to Fox Harbour, and preached in the afternoon in the Schoolhouse. On these occasions, there was a very good attendance. The Schoolhouse in question is erected in the district, and well adapted for preaching.

On Wednesday the 23rd, in accordance with the intimation formerly mentioned, we met for a meeting at Wallace, which was very well attended. A good few pounds were raised upon the spot, and collectors appointed for the different districts. The money was intended to be for past services, rendered to Wallace and Pugwash, by the Presbytery of Pictou and its Missionaries. In addition to the appointment of Collectors, I would beg to propose that a standing Committee should be appointed to manage the financial affairs of the congregation, so that in future there might be no difficulty at any time in raising money for Missionary services. The people also to be anxious that several additional Collectors should be appointed, as soon as possible.

The Ministers' Widows and Orphans Fund.

We should have had pleasure in publishing earlier, had we been furnished with them, ensuring papers relative to this important institution of our Church. Though somewhat late, yet the reasoning of the Report is sound that we invite the attention of our members to its consideration. Those congregations that have not yet contributed, will, we are so do so liberally, bearing in mind that our annuitant has since been thrown upon the Fund. In the list of collections, published in our last issue, it would be noticed that the people of St. Andrew's Church, Moncton, had, as is their wont, devised liberal charges in this matter. Some of the contributions of smaller charges were also liberal. We are glad that some of our brethren in the Lower Provinces contemplate the establishment of a similar Scheme. We are confident that the Managers of our Fund would cheerfully give them all information and the benefit of their experience in its working.—Presbyterian.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGERS OF THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND

In the Eighth Annual Report, submitted to the Synod at its meeting in the month of May last, the Managers stated that, as their financial year had not expired, they could not give an estimate of the probable amount of the Funds under their care when the books should be closed. They are now in the position to show the exact state of the Funds as on the 14th November, 1855, which, however, does not differ materially from the estimate.

The gross amount at the credit of the Fund, consisting of the Ministers' Contributions, was		£176 10 0
From which there was paid in		
Annunities,	106 15 10	
Proportion of Printing, Postages		
Stationary, &c	2 18 0	109 13 10
		£166 16 10

The gross amount at the credit of the Fund, consisting of congregational collections, was £2196 16 8