

## The Monthly Record.

FEBRUARY, 1876.

No one can object to the little controversy occasioned by the East River matters, furnishing us, as it does, with interesting reading in the *Pictou Standard* of February 1st. and 23rd. A little skirmish of this sort can do no possible harm, when the belligerents are of so mild a type. There can be no more painful sight than that of opposing parties engaged in an ecclesiastical squabble when the pen is dipped in gall, and the controversy becomes harsh, uncharitable, and bitter. On the other hand, there is nothing more enjoyable than a fresh, bracing breeze, that has not degenerated into a bitter blast from the cold North. We shall carefully note the thermometer, and if it should fall much below the freezing point, we shall use our influence to induce the parties to come inside and warm themselves at the fire of "auld langsyne." In the meantime, it must be pleasant for all parties to perceive that both letters are couched in terms as mild as could be expected. Possibly, however, most candid readers will admit that the four East River gentlemen allowed themselves to be carried just a little beyond what courtesy and even correctness would warrant, in these three points :

First ; in descending to details to such an extent as to what Mr. So-and-so had said, what Rev'd Mr. This said, and Rev'd Mr. That did ; details that justify the description *silly*.

Second ; in insinuating that Rev. Mr. McMillan *came* and preached in St. Paul's, when they certainly knew that the proper thing to write was : " Mr. McMillan, according to appointment of Presbytery, etc."

Third, and worst of all ; in making any insinuations regarding the organization of St. Paul's church in the future, and the countenance and encouragement that the Colonial Committee are likely to give to that congregation. That is our matter, with which the four gentlemen have nothing whatever to do, and we believe it will be rather a difficult task to controvert or contradict the language of Mr. McMillan, that " The Colonial Committee have invariably acted in the past with much discrimination and discretion, as well as with much benevolence and liberality in their grants."

HONOR TO THE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU  
—Most Presbyteries have to be content with the single title derived from their place of meeting. Our Presbytery has, the other day, become the honored possessor of a special designation, derived from its historical position. We are indebted to Mr. James Cumming, of the East River, for this distinction. In a recent letter to the 'Eastern Chronicle' he calls our court "the Anti-Union Presbytery."

Thank you, Mr. Cumming. This is not the first time you have done us good service. It was scarcely prudent, however, on your part, to risk calling us by such a high sounding name. It was just possible we might have taken it amiss, and sued the writer for damages of \$1,000.