

quarters of the globe. In July, 1853, he was ordained to the eldership of St. James' Church, by the present incumbent, the Rev. W. Snodgrass. He is a gentleman possessed of many excellent qualities, which have not failed to elicit for him the respect and admiration of the citizens of Charlottetown generally, but in an especial degree of the congregation of St. James', who are greatly indebted, in many respects, to the zeal and liberality with which he has ever been ready to further their interests.

On Sabbath, the 17th ult. in consequence of Mr. Gray having suddenly determined to leave on the following Monday, a meeting of the Kirk session was called by edict from the pulpit, that the members of that court might have an opportunity of taking farewell with their esteemed brother, and of commending him in prayer to the merciful protection of the Church's head. After the meeting had been constituted and the object of it briefly stated, the Moderator addressed Mr. Gray, in the following terms:

DEARLY BELOVED BROTHER,

Although we have been unexpectedly apprised of your immediate departure, yet we would not that you should leave us, without carrying along with you an expression of our esteem and good wishes.

The period of our fellowship, as members of the same congregation and of the same Church court, has been brief, yet long enough to satisfy us that the loss, we must now submit to is great, in being deprived of your counsel at all times judicious, of the presence of your exemplary deportment invariably marked with Christian propriety, and of your untiring zeal, in the advocacy of whatever is conducive to congregational order, peace, and prosperity.

You, the hearer of these qualities, we will miss; the manifestation you have given of them will not, we hope be without its proper influence upon us.

We will ever gratefully remember the promptitude and the liberality with which you have been accustomed to contribute of your means, towards the constant and permanent maintenance of our church in this place.

For the extent of your charity to the poor of the city in general, and especially the assistance you have given to the needy in connection with St. James', we are particularly thankful.

Rest assured, Dear Brother, that our best wishes follow you, wherever Providence may cast your lot. We sincerely hope that as God has disposed you to admire and practise the best of the Christian virtues, so He will always bless you with health and means, for the most effective exemplification thereof.

Our prayer for you now is, that you may readily and safely reach the distant land whither you are bound; that after months of anxiety and suspense already endured, you may meet in joy with those who are near and dear unto you; and that you may have the happiness of being rejoined, in good time by your excellent lady and beloved children. The God of love and peace be with you and yours for evermore. Farewell.

Mr. Gray briefly but feelingly replied. He said he had not words to express adequately the sense of the honour conferred upon him. It was certainly a satisfaction, of which he might well be proud, to find the church court, which he feared he was but an unworthy member approving of his public conduct. He would always remember the Christian intercourse he had enjoyed and the kind sympathy he had met with, during his present sojourn in this his

native place. It was not unlikely—he hoped it was not—that they might meet again in this colony; but whether that were allowed or not he trusted they would meet in spiritual recognition, at the right hand of God. It was hard to say, Farewell, to those whose faces were so familiar, but the time has come when it must be done.

The session then joined in prayer, blessing God for his past mercies, and especially for the good that, by the hands of their brother, had been accomplished, and imploring in his behalf the kind and gracious protection of the Most High—*Com.*

Charlottetown, 20th Feb., 1856.

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

Colonial Churches.

The following statements regarding the state of religion in the Colonies are furnished by individuals who are well acquainted with the matters to which they refer. They are therefore earnestly recommended by the Colonial Committee to the friends of missions, and all who take an interest in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, both at home and abroad.—*II of F. M. Record.*

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Presbytery of Halifax, which once numbered three clergymen in Halifax, one in Dartmouth, one in Lawrencetown, and the adjoining districts, one in Cornwallis, one in Shelburne, one in Yarmouth, one in Lunenburg, one in Bermuda, and one in Newfoundland, is now reduced to three—two in Halifax, both men advanced in life, and one in St. John's, Newfoundland.

To the westward of Halifax, where there were once large and flourishing congregations, several of which have been alienated from the Church, not from any want of love to it, but purely from want of clergymen, there are still numbers of adherents to the Church of Scotland, whose attachment nothing can shake, but no minister of the Church has been able to visit that part of the country for ten years.

To the eastward of Halifax, there are several very important mission stations, where there are many friends of the Church, and where, notwithstanding the long neglect to which they have been subjected, two congregations might yet be formed. During the past three years, when there was a missionary within the bounds of the Presbytery, these stations were supplied as often as possible, but now they are of necessity wholly unvisited. Of the three clergymen now constituting the Presbytery of Halifax, one—having received a retiring allowance from the Committee, and it being the intention of the Synod to appoint him Superintendent of Missions—only holds his charge till a suitable person is procured to succeed him; so that to put this Presbytery into anything like an efficient condition, and to endow it with an agency at all adequate to the spiritual destitution within its bounds, a clergyman should be sent out to St. Andrew's, Halifax, and at least another to act as missionary under the superintendence of the Presbytery. I mentioned Bermuda as a place where we formerly had a congregation, and I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Committee to the immense importance of our having Scotch clergymen permanently planted at the great military stations, and especially those in the Mediterranean. The present army re-

gulations would generally ensure them a large portion of their salary, even if the Government were to make no special allowance, and there could be no difficulty in getting clergymen to supply places so desirable, in many respects, for residence.

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

Passing now to the Presbytery of Pictou, we find the most compact body of the adherents of our Church in the lower colonies. That Presbytery at present numbers four ministers, while the people require and could support twelve or fourteen. At one extremity of the Presbytery are the congregations of Wallace and Pugwash. Within a compass of ten miles, we have there three churches, and a very large body of adherents; while beyond this there are other important settlements, such as Stake Road and Victoria, where most of the families belong to our Church. This most important field has been vacant for sixteen or seventeen years. The people are thoroughly able to support a clergyman, and they have made many urgent appeals for one to the Colonial Committee, but hitherto in vain. Surely one man at least should be sent to this district without further delay. The great proportion of the people there can speak English, and although, in some respects, it would be very desirable that they should have a Gaelic minister, yet, as Gaelic congregations, which are in still greater need, cannot be supplied, I believe they would be satisfied with one not having this qualification. Coming up nearer to Pictou, the capital of the country, we have the large congregations of Earlestown, Cape John, West Branch of River John, and Rogers' Hill. This important field, after having been for many years destitute, was supplied for between two and three years by the Rev. Mr. McKay, who was translated, during the past summer, to Belfast, Prince Edward's Island. During Mr. McKay's ministration, our cause was greatly revived there, and I believe the people would be perfectly willing at present to support two ministers. But certainly one should be sent to them immediately, and it is essential that he should have a knowledge of Gaelic. Adjoining this district lies that of the Rev. Mr. McLean, who preaches in four churches to different congregations, any one of which is sufficient for the labours of a pastor. Before the secession, when the population was of course less than at present, they formed two congregations. For about ten years they were without any clergyman, receiving only such occasional supply as the Rev. Mr. McGillivray, who at time that ministered to the whole county, was able to give them. Mr. McLean, since his arrival in the province, has preached in the four places, although he has accepted a call from two. One minister should therefore be sent out without delay to the East and West Branches, the two remaining congregations, and I fear that it is essential that he should have Gaelic. In the event of this being impossible, an English clergyman would decidedly be better than none,—and perhaps, by a system of exchanges with Mr. McLean, by making a sort of collegiate charge in the back settlements of Pictou, the wants of the population could be tolerably supplied. Passing now over the congregation of New Glasgow and McLeannan's Mountain, which enjoy the services of Mr. Pollok and Mr. McGillivray, we come to the congregations of Barney's River and Lochaber, where we have churches and many staunch adherents. This important charge has been vacant for many years. At present