

THE

MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE



Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 5

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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The part of the Religious Service conducted by the Rev. John Scott at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the new Church of St. Matthew's, Halifax, N. S., on the 18th June, 1858.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."—"In all thy ways acknowledge Him."—"If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that."—"In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."—"Whosoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."—"Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, even the Father, by him."

We see, then, my Christian friends, in what spirit, and in what way, it becomes us to engage in the work before us. We see our warrant, and what should be our object and aim, in this solemnity.

We are this day met together to lay the corner-stone of our new church; and as, when the builders laid the foundation of the second temple, the people celebrated the event with songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, so we, on this occasion of laying the foundation of the edifice which we purpose to erect as our place of worship, would with joy, and with due ceremony, record our sense of the Lord's goodness, and thank and praise his name. O! then, let us give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever!

Let us sing part of the 106th Psalm, old version:

Give praise and thanks unto the Lord,
For bountiful is he;
His tender mercy doth endure
Unto eternity.
God's mighty works, who can express,
Or show forth all his praise,
Blessed are they that judgment keep,
And justly do always.
Remember me, Lord, with that love
Which thou to thine dost bear;
With thy salvation, O! my God,
To visit me draw near,
That I thy chosen's good may see,
And in their joy rejoice.
And may with thine inheritance
Triumph with cheerful voice.

Let us pray:

Almighty God! thou infinitely glorious Jehovah—thou Maker of the Universe—Divine Artificer,—we adore thee in thy creating and in thy disposing power. O, thou magnifi-

cent Founder and most curious Architect and Framer of thy manifold temple! thou art the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone: that spreadeth abroad the earth by thyself; stretching out the north over the empty place,—hanging the earth upon nothing,—giving to all thy work to rest on what is firmer than a material support—even thine immovable decree. Thou spakest, and it was done; thou commandedst, and it stood fast.

Of old thou hast laid the foundation of the earth. Thou hast founded the earth upon its basis, that it should not be removed forever. Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth, continuing to this day, according to thine ordinance.

And glory be to thee, O, thou wonderful Worker! when the noble building thou hadst erected in this lower world—thy living temple—was defiled by sin; its comely order turned into confusion; its pillars broken, and the whole once stately fabric lying an utter ruin, and consequently no longer fit to be the residence of thine indwelling glory—the necessary effect of which was the withdrawing of thy gracious and blessed presence—yet, leaving it, thou didst not consume it, but hadst thoughts of love and mercy concerning it, having resolved from eternity to effect its restoration—to form it anew, and make it more glorious than before. Wherefore, according to thine eternal counsel, and according to thy promise made unto the fathers from the beginning of the world, thou hast laid in Zion, for a foundation, a stone—a tried stone—a precious corner-stone—a sure foundation. And other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ—the foundation on which thy believing people, as living stones, do rest, and are built up, a spiritual house.

Glory be to thee, O, thou Divine Architect! that the living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of thee, and precious—that this stone, which the builders disallowed, is made the head of the corner—that Jesus Christ himself is the chief corner stone, in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord, in whom all thy people, of whatever nation or country, are builded together for an habitation of God, through the spirit.

And now, O eternal Jehovah! great in power, and arrayed with glory incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of the most magnificent house which man has builded or can build, but who nevertheless condescendest to dwell with men on the earth, and to appear in the meetings of thy saints,—we, thy professing people, called by thy Providence to prepare for ourselves a place of worship, are here assembled, in thy name, to lay the foundation thereof with suitable solemnity. We desire to acknowledge thee in this our undertaking; to look to thee