

Society for Irish Church Missions.

A remarkable testimony (says the London Record, in a recent number) has recently been afforded of the steady progress and permanent character of the work of the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics. The Lord Bishop of Tuam has recently held a visitation and inspection of the Mission in his diocese, and has authorised the publication of a report upon the subject, from which we make the following extracts:—

"In the course of the present tour the Bishop has consecrated five new churches, one of which is the re-construction of a parish church and four were new missionary churches. He has besides inspected a fifth missionary church, nearly ready for consecration.

"His Lordship has also inspected five new parsonage-houses, built for the residence of missionary clergymen, with funds collected by various individuals. Three of these are already occupied, and two are in an advanced state of preparation.

"The episcopal visitation was held in four different places. Fifty of the clergy attended, of whom thirteen were parochial ministers, and thirty-seven were missionaries.

"Confirmations were held in five places, where persons were presented from seventeen different localities. The total number was 376, of whom 305 were converts from Romanism, and 71 were original Protestants.

"The number of new mission school-houses that have been opened is twelve, while preparations have been made for the commencement of two more.

"The number of mission schools which were examined in the course of the tour is twenty-six.

"In six different places, the subordinate agents engaged in the missionary work were visited, and the number of persons present were 151.

"The Bishop desires in drawing up this report, that it may be stated that from the inquiries made by his lordship he learns from every quarter, that although the people are strongly urged to oppose the work of the missions, there never was a time when the missionaries and Scripture-readers found a more ready access and general acceptance amongst the Roman Catholics.

The Founders of Mettray.

During the last few weeks an illustrious stranger has been sojourning in this country. M. de Metz, the surviving founder and the present manager of the far-famed *colonie*, or reformatory institution, at Mettray, has been visiting England. He was present at a Reformatory Conference recently held by the noblemen and gentlemen of the Midland counties at Birmingham. He gave an interesting account of the establishment over which he presides at a similar meeting at Bristol; and last week he closed his inspection of the chief English institutions, for the reformation of criminals, by a visit to the Philanthropic Society's Farm School at Redhill. A few words, therefore, about Mettray and M. de Metz will not be inappropriate under the present circumstances.

Sixteen or seventeen years ago, M. de Metz was a magistrate at Paris, when the number of young children who were brought before him, and whom he was obliged to consign to the contaminating influence of a jail, and to association with grown-up and hardened criminals,

first caused him to turn his attention to the subject of the reformation of juvenile offenders. He found a like-minded companion and fellow-worker in M. le Vicomte de Breignerens de Courteilles—a nobleman in every sense of the word; and, in conjunction with him, opened the establishment at Mettray, in a rural district about five miles from Tours, in the midsummer of 1839. The first six months were spent in training some twenty youths, of respectable parentage, to act as assistant teachers, under the direction of the two founders; and this *école préparatoire*, or school for officials, still continues as one of the most important features in the institution. At the beginning of the following year, twelve young criminals were admitted; and in succeeding years the number of the inmates was very gradually increased, until it reached five hundred or thereabout. The discipline to which they have been subjected has been attended with the most happy results. Ninety per cent. of the criminal boys have grown up into honest and useful men, whilst the remainder have turned out much better members of society than they could possibly have been under other circumstances. These statistics are no charitable fictions, founded on the observations of a few cases; they are actual facts, ascertained by the clearest evidence.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

DECEMBER, 1855.

Arrival of the Rev. William Murray.

WE have much pleasure in announcing the arrival of the Rev. William Murray in the last steamer from Liverpool, as a missionary from the Colonial Committee of our Church, to take the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian Congregation at Moncton, and the adjoining districts, in the province of New Brunswick. From what we have seen and heard of Mr. Murray, from the recommendations which he brings with him, from his private deportment, and from his very acceptable public services during his stay in this city, we have good reason to believe that he will prove himself a faithful, zealous, and devoted minister of the Gospel, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, an efficient fellowlabourer with his brethren in New Brunswick, and a diligent instructor of the people placed under his pastoral charge. He goes to a field which has been but little cultivated by Presbyterian Ministers, and where he will have full scope for his talents and exertions. For a short period this congregation enjoyed the excellent and valuable Ministrations of the Rev. William Henderson, of Newcastle, Miramichi; but they have been long vacant since his removal from the place, and much requires to be done in reestablishing and building up a flourishing congregation. The district, however, is becoming populous, Moncton being now an incorporated city; the people are active and enterprising; there are a number of devoted Presbyterians, with

their families; and we have been led to understand that there are few places in New Brunswick that hold out the prospect of greater encouragement and support for a Presbyterian minister than the station which Mr. Murray has been appointed to occupy.

Presbytery of Halifax.

A *pro re nata* meeting of this court was held in the session room of St. Matthew's Church on the 7th ult. the Rev. John Martin, Moderator, to draw up and present a certificate, to the Rev. George W. Sprott, from the Presbytery, on his removal from the Province to Scotland. A draft of the proposed testimonial was submitted to the court which after some discussion and several verbal alterations was unanimously adopted and presented to that clergyman by the Moderator. The following is a copy of that document which has been furnished to us for publication:—

"The Presbytery of Halifax being now about to part with their beloved fellow-labourer, the Rev. George W. Sprott, have much pleasure in bearing their united and willing testimony to the excellent talents, the valuable services and christian deportment of their gifted and esteemed friend and brother since the commencement of his mission in Nova Scotia. They have enjoyed frequent and favorable opportunities of witnessing the integrity and worth of his private conduct, the ability and excellence of his public ministrations, and his unwearied and arduous exertions for the welfare of the church and the prosperity of the different religious institutions in this city, and they are happy to say that they have found in him a union of those valuable and estimable qualities which adorn the christian character and enhance the services of the christian minister. His pulpit appearances have been uniformly pleasing, instructive and edifying; his private visitations have been constant and kind and endearing; his attachment to our beloved church is steadfast and enlightened; and his zeal for the cause of Christian Missions strong and ardent.

"He came to this colony when the interests of our church were in a most depressed and almost hopeless condition, accompanied by other zealous and devoted Missionaries, who have now obtained fixed and comfortable situations in this country. As one of this faithful and united band, he soon began to see what ought to be done for the welfare of our Zion, and what he conceived ought to be done he sought and attempted to accomplish. During his stay in the Province, our ecclesiastical courts have been once more re-established, a monthly periodical commenced, an extensive series of missionary visits projected, and a correspondence with the sister Synods in the Colonies begun, and although his absence may occasion no small inconvenience, and a temporary suspension of some missionary services, it is to be hoped that our church has, through his