

## News of the Church.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at Green Hill on Tuesday 18th ult. Mr John Wm. Matheson, student of Theology, delivered a lecture on Eph. ii. 1-5, and a popular sermon on Psal. xxiii. 4, read an exercise with additions on Rom. viii. 1, and was examined on the 4th century of Church History, the first ten psalms in Hebrew and the New Testament, *ad aperturam libri* in Greek, all which were approved by the Presbytery. These being all Mr. Matheson's trials for license, the question was taken "sustain them *in cumulo* or not," when it carried unanimously sustain. The question was next taken, "Proceed to license or not," when it carried unanimously proceed. The Moderator then put to Mr Matheson the questions of the Formula, and, having engaged in prayer, he as the mouth of the Presbytery and in the name of the Great Head of the Church, solemnly licensed him to preach the everlasting gospel.

A report was read of the Rev James McLean's proceedings in the forming the new congregation of Baddeck. His conduct was approved, and steps were taken for the ordination of the elders elect.

On Tuesday the 4th ult. the Rev James McLean, recently of Mabou, was inducted to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Gay's River, Shubenacadie and Lower Stewiacke.

Rev P. G. McGregor preached an appropriate discourse. Rev J. Cameron narrated the steps taken by the Presbytery in the matter, and the people, having by a show of hands, declared their adherence to the call, Mr Cameron proposed the usual questions, which having been satisfactorily answered, he offered the induction prayer. Rev Mr Sedgewick charged the minister and Mr McGregor the congregation. May the great Lord of the Harvest give strength and perseverance to his servant in cultivating the field on which he has entered, and provide, in his abounding grace, a faithful successor to labour in the equally destitute section of country which he has just left.—*Witness.*

The congregation of Salem Church acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an elegant Timepiece for their Church,

a present from Hugh McDonald, Esq., South River, Antigonish.

On Thursday, December 6th, the ladies of Elder Adamson's district of the Rev J. Watson's congregation presented their pastor with a beautiful Seal-skin Fur Coat, as a token of their esteem for him, and of gratitude for his labors among them, particularly in the Bible Class. It was accompanied with a complimentary address.

The new Presbyterian Church in Upper Stewiacke village was opened on Sabbath the 7th ult. by the Rev James Smith, pastor of the congregation; who preached an able discourse, extending over both the forenoon and afternoon services, from the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah, last clause of the 7th verse, "Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people." This spacious and magnificent edifice now brought to a completion is one of the finest churches in the Province. It contains, very comfortably, one thousand sitters; and reflects great credit on the taste and public spirit of this thriving settlement. It is but three years last July since the new church in the Middle Stewiacke, or lower section of this congregation, was opened; and now active preparations are making for the erection of another in Eastville district, at the opposite or upper end of the congregation. The people of Stewiacke are almost exclusively Presbyterians—and have enjoyed for a long term of years, reaching back nearly to the infancy of the settlement, the preaching of the gospel and administration of ordinances. The Rev Hugh Graham, translated from Cornwallis, was the first settled minister, and was succeeded about twenty-five years ago by the Rev James Smith, who still continues his labours faithfully among them. The congregation, now the largest in the body, is about being divided, middle Stewiacke being detached to be united with Brookfield and form a new congregation: the upper settlement will form a congregation of itself, and retain the services of Mr Smith. Sound, orthodox Presbyterianism is not losing ground in our Provinces, but on the contrary is advancing steadily with the growth of the population.—*Witness.*