

they are an independent church, and have showed their jealousy for the preservation of this feature in their character and history by their "Act of Independence"—a fact which made the Free Church secession in Canada so needless and unjustifiable, and lent such dignity and consistency to those who adhered to the church, whose spiritual independence could not be infringed by any movements in the parent church,—we are confident that they shall not be disposed to show us an evil example of making unnecessary alterations in the laws and constitutions of our venerated church. If such a work should be undertaken by them, it would be well for us to wait, until we—a small Synod and far from possessing their colonial experience—can profit by their labors. This course may be the more proper, as most of us cherish the hope of union with them and New Brunswick, through representation in a General Assembly,—a glorious dream, to which, we trust, a few years shall impart the freshness and felicity of reality. Meantime, it is right for us to have a more definite understanding with the people on the subject referred to; and if the Presbytery shall appoint a committee to instruct their people on the subject, we need not say that it will afford the managers of the *Record* much pleasure to publish the document.—[ED. MONTHLY RECORD.]

WEST BRANCH EAST RIVER CONGREGATION.—This congregation is in a progressive and prosperous state, notwithstanding the serious loss it has sustained in the departure of Mr. McRae to Newfoundland—a departure marked by mutual good feeling and respect on the part of minister and people, as testified by the feeling address presented to Mr. McRae, on his removal to a most important, though, as regards us, secluded sphere of labor, where, we understand, his services give much satisfaction, and, we hope, are productive of real good. Having had occasion to visit the West Branch lately, we found the congregation worshipping, it is true, in the same old and tottering church that has been the scene of so many refreshing services and resounded with so many excellent sermons from the great and good men of the deputations of the Church of Scotland and the Messrs. McRae, father and son, that it might be allowed now to rest its old, weary and rotten bones in peace—we found also, it is true, the same unique, cracked, old stove, that has rusted there for the best part of a century, and sends forth wood-smoke through innumerable fissures, to make the preacher

weep, the people blind, and both parties invisible to each other; but we found also a beautiful new church of large dimensions rising not far off. The outside of the new church is admirably finished, and secured from the effects of the weather. The inside is in progress, and does much credit to the spirit of the congregation and the skill of the workmen. We found, also, in the old church, bad as it is, the same stout, old, staunch Presbyterians, that we used to find there, who entered with heart and soul into the business of the lay association, and organised a scheme for the circulation of the *Record* amongst themselves. In both these respects, we hope that theirs will be a fruitful example to other congregations. We believe that they were much refreshed lately by the visit of an old friend of theirs, who is a native of their district, and who ministered laboriously among them for the space of four years, in the shape of the Rev. Alexander McLean. When he preached, the old house was crowded to excess, and the visit was cheering to many people, who have not heard the "word" in their own cherished tongue for a considerable time. It is indeed sad to behold such a large field without a pastor, but it is surprising, as well as consoling, to find them so prosperous and hopeful.—*Com.*

New Churches.

There seems to be quite a movement at present among the adherents of our church in the direction of church-building. We can now point with pleasure to some of the largest and finest edifices in the Province. We can refer with satisfaction to such churches as have been built within a few years at New Glasgow, Pugwash, Wallace, Cape John, Salt Springs, and East Branch, East River. The church at Gairloch has been pronounced by the Rev. John Sprott, who preached in it lately, to be the finest in this country. All who know Mr. Sprott, his shrewdness, his habits of observation, and his almost unparalleled experience of this Province, will acknowledge his competency to form a just opinion. Indeed, if some of these churches have any fault, they are too grand. At all events, they are so large that we, from sad experience, would recommend that, after the future incumbents have been examined by the Presbytery, according to the laws made and provided in such cases, they should, before settlement, be handed over by the faculty of Divines to the faculty of physicians for examination into the capacity of their throats and chests. They are Gothic, and not sonorous bodies, constructed in violation of all the laws of sound, and he will be a man of good lungs and iron muscle, who shall preach in some of them long, without racking his frame. However, if attended to, and provided with a good beadle, they will be comfortable; and any man, who undervalues comfort in the house of God in these days, does not rate the worship of God too highly.