

**The Monthly Record.**

FEBRUARY, 1878.

**THE CHURCH AT HOME.**

At no period in her history has the Church of Scotland, in the old country, appeared to be more prosperous than at present. Her numerous schemes are flourishing. The Home and Foreign Record shows that a deep and an intelligent interest is taken in the work of the church. That periodical publishes not only the news of its own mission work, but also gives a full account of the progress and doings of all other evangelical churches—thus setting an example of Catholicity well worthy of imitation. As a national Church, endowed in a large measure, she is free from the severe strain which poverty often brings to bear upon weak churches. She does not require to resort to the trade of proselytizing, in order to live. She does not require to belittle others in order to magnify herself. With a calmness arising from a “conscience void of offence” she devotes her energies to the work at home and abroad without annoyance or boasting, and without wantonly assailing others. On the other hand, a Church whose sole *raison d’être* is a protest, must keep up a continual noisy battle, or else perish as a separate organization. Its meat and drink is strife, and when one cause of strife is removed it must seek another, or languish and die. At one time it whets its teeth and assuages its hunger on the dry bone of patronage, and when that is devoured it must look around for some other game; and now it flies at dis-establishment.

When the day comes, if it should come, that the Church of Scotland shall be dis-

established, it will be found that the Church is prepared to face her altered position. No government in Britain (whatever may happen out here) will venture to touch the accumulated funds of the Church, contributed by private individuals; and every day her private endowments are increasing. Churches by the score are being built and endowed by voluntary contributions, proving the strong hold the Church has upon the heart of the Scottish people.

When new sects spring into existence, full of life and vigor, many ardent souls, longing for a life of devotion and self-sacrifice, unite with them fondly, imagining they have reached a haven of unselfishness, but alas, they soon discover that no denomination on earth has a monopoly of virtue and religion. The consequence is they often long to return whence they came, feeling that the old was better. And it would appear that some such reaction has set in in Scotland towards the old Kirk. It would seem that many who had at one time forsaken her altar, are now seeking to return thither. At all events it might be argued that such is the case, judging by the number of students and licentiates of the Free and U. P. Churches who are continually applying to be received into her ranks.

**NEW GLASGOW.**—Our readers will be glad to learn that Rev. Mr. Coull’s health is greatly improved, and that he has resumed preaching.

**FISHER’S GRANT.**—The people on Fisher’s Grant, in connection with the Pictou Presbytery, are actively engaged in building a place of worship for themselves. We hope they will receive the sympathy and aid that their peculiar circumstances call for.

**THE REV. MR. HERDMAN** delivered a lecture in St. Andrew’s Church, New Glasgow, in which he completely upset Mr. Hine’s theory that the “lost tribes of Israel” have been discovered in the “Anglo Saxons.” So they are “wandering Jews” yet. We hope in some future number to give our readers an opportunity of judging of the merits of the lecture for themselves.