

The Monthly Record.

MARCH, 1877.

In a statement prepared on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, signed by the Rev. G. M. Grant and others, had published in the January number of the *Home Record* and partly reproduced in our own RECORD for the information of our people, the following sentence occurs: "In one county of Nova Scotia, settled chiefly by Highlanders from the North of Scotland, are ten ministers who still retain a nominal connection with the Church of Scotland." Our ministers and people have all along believed that the connection claimed is a *real*, not a *nominal* one; they believe so still, and they mean to protect themselves against all or any individuals who may endeavor to deprive them of the use and enjoyment of the appellation, "In connection with the Church of Scotland." Moreover we mean to shew that our claim rests not on a shadow or a sentiment, but on good and substantial grounds, a few of which it may be interesting to our readers to indicate:

1. So far back as the year 1829, a Presbytery was formed by Ministers in Pictou County, regularly organized, recognized by the Church at home, and bearing the name of the "Presbytery of Pictou, in connection with the Church of Scotland."

2. For very many years past the expression in question has been constantly employed, always without the adjective *nominal*, not only in documents sent by us, but in documents sent to us, by the Colonial Committee and by Presbyteries of the Church at home.

3. In their report to the General Presbytery in May last, the committee use this language: "With brethren continuing to maintain their connection

with the Church of Scotland, the relations of the General Assembly have during the past year, remained, of course, unchanged." The adjective *nominal* seems not to be so well known to the respected Convener of the Colonial Committee, as it is to our Canadian Brethren. There are *Scottish Presbyterians abroad*, but they must remember that the schoolmaster is abroad also and he has taught us to decline the adjective "nominal."

4. We are almost ashamed to be mentioning facts that no one can think of disputing, but we must add one more. When our church in this province was weakened at the Disruption, our people instead of "not being a let stand aloof from the great current of church-life in the country," did stand aloof and steadfastly retained their connection with the Church of Scotland. In particular in the year 1853—Rev. Messrs Pollock, Herdman and McLean, in addition to Dr. McGilivray being now in the field, and others soon to arrive, our Church became much stronger, and our cause greatly flourished. With the avowed aim of still further strengthening our branch of the Church, four young men were sent home to be educated in Scotland. In the early part of 1861 the Presbytery had the great joy of welcoming them back again as ordained ministers of our church. The Presbytery of Glasgow, by which they had been ordained, wrote thus regarding them: "When eight years ago these gentlemen (Messrs. Cameron, Grant, McGregor and McMillan,) came to Scotland to prosecute their studies at the University of this city, we hailed their arrival as a cheering sign of the Nova Scotia branch of our beloved Church. We have watched their progress through college with the greatest interest, and have observed with sincere pleasure the distinguished appearance they have made. * * *