

the faults of the persons introduced to us in this chapter are recorded. This is a strong argument for the *divinity of the Bible*. You do not see the weak points in the character brought out in uninspired biography. In the Bible we have a truthful representation—vices as well as virtues—defects as well as excellencies.

DOCTRINE TO BE PROVED:

Sin brings its own punishment. Jer. ii. 19.

News of the Church.

Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at New Glasgow on the 7th.

A petition was laid upon the table of Presbytery from the congregation of Lochaber and Goshen praying for the moderation of a call. The Commissioners stated that they were now prepared to promise £165 per annum of stipend, and hoped yet to increase it. After enquiries the Presbytery agreed to grant the prayer of the petition and appointed Mr. Blair to moderate in said call on the 29th inst.

Mr. Robert Cumming, student of Philosophy, having been duly examined, and the Presbytery having received satisfactory attestations of his Christian character was admitted as a student of Theology.

A petition from the Albion Mines for three months further supply was granted.

Reports of Missionary labour by Messrs. Donald Stewart, A. McL. Sinclair were approved and ordered to be forwarded to the Home Mission Board.

The Rev. John McKinnon, in consequence of severe domestic afflictions, requested leave of absence for a few months to visit Scotland. The Presbytery sympathized with him and granted his request.

Messrs Thomson, Roddick, Downie, and Pitblado, were appointed to supply Dr. Smith's pulpit one day each during the Session of the Hall.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be held in John Knox's church, New Glasgow, on the 2nd Tuesday of December next.

Presbytery of Halifax.

The following minute of the Presbytery of Halifax, restoring the Rev. John Sprott, is published by direction of the Presbytery:

A letter from the Rev. John Sprott was read, in which he acknowledged that he had "taken up a wrong position on the marriage affinity question," and expressing his willingness to make any satisfaction the Presbytery would require. The Presbytery

in view of this statement,—1st. Agree to record their deep sense of the evils which have resulted from the marriage out of which this case originated. 2nd. *Resolved*,—While expressing their regret that Mr. Sprott is not able to appear before them in person, to restore him, and hereby do restore the Rev. John Sprott to his former status in this Presbytery and in the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America.

As there has been some misapprehension as to the reason why Mr. Sprott has been disciplined by the Presbytery of Halifax, the following sentence of the Presbytery dated 8th May, 1862, is also published by authority:—

A letter from the Rev. John Sprott in reply to his third citation, was then read. After resuming the following resolution was unanimously passed,—

Whereas, Mr. Sprott, on being cited for the third time, with certification, to appear before the Presbytery, to be dealt with respecting his conduct in marrying Mr. Samuel Archibald to his deceased wife's niece, in violation of the law of the church as laid down in the Confession of Faith, has not obtempered said citation, but written to the Presbytery disowning their jurisdiction, inasmuch as he did not take part in the recent union of the churches, declares himself "entirely beyond our control" and owing us "no canonical obedience," the Presbytery feel themselves shut up to the painful necessity of declaring, as they now do declare that he is no longer a Minister of this Church.

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

This Presbytery met in the Presbyterian Church, Bedeque, on Tuesday, the 31st ult. There were present the Revs. R. S. Patterson, A. Campbell, J. Allan, I. Murray, G. Sutherland, A. Fraser, A. Cameron, R. Laird, W. Ross, W. R. Frame, A. Falconer, J. D. Murray and W. Stuart; and Messrs. Thompson, Carr and McArthur, elders.

In the absence of the Rev. A. Munro, the Rev. J. Allan was chosen Moderator *pro tem*. Commissions in favor of Mr. D. McDougall, elder from West River, and Mr. John Miller, elder from West Cape, &c., were read and sustained, and the names of these brethren were added to the Roll of Presbytery.

The special business which convened the Presbytery at Bedeque was the visitation of the congregation. The usual questions prescribed by Synod to be asked of the pastor and office-bearers of the congregation were answered, in general, satisfactorily, with the exception of those pertaining to ministerial support. The stipend originally