

convert that chapel into a parish church? The work would obviously be at a stand, unless, by following out our plan of Provincial subscriptions, or some similar plan, we should be enabled to supply the necessary complement. But subscriptions on a Provincial or other extended basis, are, for the most part, of a still greater moment in acting as a stimulus to local exertion. We have received, indeed, many munificent subscriptions from landed proprietors and other gentlemen of wealth, for the endowment of chapels with which they had some special connexion. But the cases for which contributions of this kind were to be expected, are probably now nearly exhausted. In an overwhelming majority of those with which we have still to deal, the necessary local exertion can be made only by an accumulation of many small subscriptions; and this exertion will certainly not be made except under the influence of some powerful stimulus, such as our Provincial subscriptions are calculated to supply. It must be evident, therefore, to every intelligent friend of the cause, that a vigorous prosecution of these subscriptions is essential to its success. To undervalue and discourage them, if not done in utter thoughtlessness, can be the work only of those who wish to arrest our progress. It might not be too much to ask of such parties, to consider well if they have any better way of attaining the end which it is the object of our Scheme to promote. We gladly indulge the hope, however, that the conduct of which we have thought it our duty to complain, has resulted only from want of reflection, and that those who have been betrayed into it will hasten to make ample reparation to our good cause.

AID TO CHURCH EXTENSION.

The sum reported under the head of Provincial Subscriptions, notwithstanding it comes far short of what we hoped it might have amounted to, is still encouraging. Indeed, for the group of chapels in the south-eastern district of the country, the Provincial subscription, from the assurances of farther support which your Committee have received, and the confident hopes which they are permitted to entertain, might be regarded as complete. On the grounds stated they conceive themselves to have an absolute certainty that, long before the meeting of the Court of Tiends in November next, the comparatively trifling balance that is still wanting, will be more than supplied; and therefore, that to the General Assembly, 1858, they, or those who come after them, will have the high privilege of reporting for this district or Province, the first instalment of twenty additional parishes. They have heartfelt joy in repeating the acknowledgment that, under God, this happy result is due to the cordial and munificent support which they have received from men of all ranks within the Province—the poor as well as the rich. Especially are they indebted to the noblemen and gentlemen who did them the honor to preside at the several meetings already noticed. Nor, from the Province of the far

north, though much has still to be done in it, are the returns which have been received during the past year, of a less gratifying character. As yet we have only had one meeting in the Province—that which was held at Elgin, in autumn last, under the auspices of the Duke of Richmond. But the Provincial subscriptions that have resulted from this meeting have been such as to give promise of an abundant harvest, amounting, as has been already noticed, to upwards of £12,000.

Your Committee cannot forbear to mention the munificent returns which have been made by one of the smallest Presbyteries in the Province—a Presbytery comprising but five parishes, and partly Highland too—the Presbytery of Aberlour. Including a subscription of £200 from Sir Geo. McPherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, a sum of more than £1,300 has been raised by the indefatigable exertions of the members and friends of the Church in this remote district, on the banks of the Spey. Such an example of full and overflowing Christian liberality, may well constrain your Committee, and it does constrain them, to thank God and take courage. They have now made arrangements, if you shall be pleased to re-appoint them, for holding meetings, in the ensuing autumn, in Inverness and Aberdeen. The Earl of Seafield has kindly agreed to preside at the former, and Lord Haddo at the latter. Arrangements for other meetings in the Province are in progress, which your Committee confidently trust will be satisfactorily completed.* Looking, in these circumstances, to the first fruits already reported, they do indulge the hope, with not a little assurance, over sanguine though it may be supposed to be, that, before another year pass away, their work will be equally far advanced on the banks of the Dee, and the Spey and the Ness, as it now is on those of the Forth and the Tweed.

WANT OF ADDITIONAL PASTORAL SUPERINTENDENCE.

It is in the mineral districts of the country that the want of additional pastoral superintendence is most urgent—so urgent, indeed, that for parishes of eight, twelve, twenty, and in some cases even thirty thousand inhabitants, there is but a single parish Minister. The supposition is not to be entertained that Ministers so oppressed with an unbearable weight of responsibility, as the Ministers of such parishes must be, should not eagerly co-operate, by every means in their power, in subdividing their overgrown charges into charges of manageable extent. Your Committee neither can doubt nor will they doubt, that, for accomplishing the work in which they are engaged, they may rely with confidence on receiving the most cordial co-operation of all Ministers of mineral

* On the day on which the Report was read to the Assembly, intimation was made to the Convener of the Committee, of the concurrence of the Marquis of Stafford to preside at a meeting in Golspie.

parishes. These parishes must be sub-divided into parishes of such extent as to be, each, efficiently cultivated by a single parish Minister, if the consciences of those who have now charge of them are to be relieved from an intolerable burden, and if the Church of Scotland is not to be so attenuated as to be virtually non-existent in the most populous and influential districts of the country. Fully relying, then, on the right-minded and right-hearted co-operative agency of the parish Ministers of the two mineral Provinces, your Committee have no misgivings that the members and friends of the Church in these Provinces, will be found equally zealous with their brethren in other parts of the country, in working out your Scheme to a happy issue. The mineral Provinces have means and to spare; and the means are in the hands of men of heart, too—of men of Christian zeal and patriotism who, once convinced of their duty to the neglected fellow-citizens amongst whom they live, will hasten to discharge it, or, we should rather say, who, once made alive to the high privilege of recovering those citizens to their country, their Queen and their God, will certainly not fail eagerly and unflinchingly, to apply themselves to effect this recovery. With the parish Ministers going hand in hand with us—of one heart and of one soul with us—we repeat we have no fears for the result, but anticipate with confidence, on the contrary, that, though we may not gather in from the mineral Provinces the first fruits, we shall yet gather in from them, in the end, the richest and most abundant harvest.

CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Acts and Proceedings of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

Begun at Fredericton, the 23rd day of July, and terminated the 27th day of July, 1857.

DIST I.

At Fredericton, and within St. Paul's Church there, Thursday, the 23d day of July, one thousand, eight hundred and fifty seven years.

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of New-Brunswick, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, met according to appointment. The Rev. James Murray, Moderator, took the Chair, and constituted the meeting with prayer.

Presbytery Rolls having been given in, the Synod Roll was made up and read over.

Sederunt: Rev. John M. Brooke, D. D., Rev. Wm. Donald, A. M., Rev. John Ross, Rev. John Hunter, Rev. Peter Keay, A. M., Rev. David Stott, Rev. James Steven, Rev. W. Henderson, A. M., Rev. Wm. Stewart, Rev. James Murray; with Messrs. John Edwards and Robert Robertson, Elders.

The Rev. John Barclay, D. D., of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, produced a Commission from the Synod of Canada, appointing him a Corresponding Member and Delegate, to