

JAMAICA.—In the present *Record* we give an interesting letter from Rev. Thomas Downie, late of Antigonish. Rev. William Murray, late of Cornwallis, is now labouring in Kingston, Jamaica. His health has greatly improved.

The circulation of the *Record* of the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland, has reached 50,000 copies a month.

Both the venerable Secretaries of the United Presbyterian Church have tendered their resignation to the Synod.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM REV. T. DOWNIE, JAMAICA.

My Dear Sir,—Before I left Nova Scotia you expressed a wish that after I had been some time in Jamaica I would write you a letter, and give you some account of my new sphere of labour. I need not say that it is with feelings of pleasure I comply with your request; and want of leisure is my only apology for not writing you before this time. The years that I spent in Nova Scotia were, to me, years of happiness and comfort. Often do I recur, with feelings of lively interest, to the scenes of my Antigonish pastorate; and my fervent prayer to the great Head of the Church is, that he may bless the people among whom I laboured, by advancing their temporal and spiritual welfare. As I read the *Record* and *Presbyterian Witness* regularly, I am made acquainted with the proceedings of your church courts, and I notice with interest the progress which the cause of religion is making among you. A bright future is, I believe, before the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. Its ministers are now doing a great and important work; they are scattering the seed of divine truth over a wide extent of territory; the gospel tree which they are rearing, already affords a shelter to multitudes of immortal souls; and there cannot be a doubt that millions of individuals yet unborn are to find a refuge beneath its branches.

The field of labour upon which I have entered in Jamaica is large and extensive, and such as to demand my unwearied ener-

gies. The United Presbyterian Church in Scotland commenced a mission in the island more than forty years ago, and there are now twenty-four congregations belonging to that body. These congregations are divided into four Presbyteries, the ministers of which, with representative elders, meet as a Synod once a year. According to the statistics for 1867, there were—in the congregations 4684 members; an attendance at public worship of 6121; on the roll of candidates for admission to the church 470; attendance of scholars at Sabbath classes 3445, taught by 296 teachers. The total income of the congregations for the year was £2559 sterling. The expenses of ministers and elders attending the meeting of Synod are, as in Nova Scotia, paid out of the Synod fund, to which each congregation is expected to give a collection. The Synod of 1868 met in the beginning of March, and from the following statement of monies contributed for the Synod fund, it will appear that the collections of some of our congregations will bear a proportion to the liberality of some of the congregations in Nova Scotia. I select a few items at random. For the above fund the congregation of Carronhall contributed £2 stg., Montego Bay £4 2s. 6d., Goshen £1 4s. 7½d., Mount Horeb £1, Hampden £5, Mount Zion, £2 10s., Falmouth £2 9s. 6d.

From the foregoing statement, some idea may be formed of the size of the Presbyterian church in Jamaica, and the extent of its operations. It has already accomplished, and is still doing a great and important work. When the fact is taken into account that the mass of the people only emerged from slavery, with all its degrading and demoralizing influences, thirty years ago, the wonder is, that so many large congregations have been formed, and that in them there are so many individuals who are adorning their christian profession by a holy life and conduct. I would, however, carefully guard against conveying the impression that our congregations, in organization and efficiency, would stand a comparison with old and experienced congregations in Scotland or Nova Scotia. Whatever care is exercised by ministers in admitting to the