

Pictou Academy, where, under its present able and efficient management, it is not too much to say that as sound, thorough, and complete a course of education may be received as in institutions of a like kind in any part of the United Kingdom. We consider that our friends in Pictou have every reason to congratulate themselves on possessing the services of two such excellent teachers as Messrs. Costley & Jack, the present masters of the institution. Both in the prime of life, with great experience in the work of teaching, as well as the highest qualifications for their respective departments, they cannot fail to advance the interests of the Academy to the highest pitch of perfection, and to exert a very favorable influence upon the standard of education in that quarter of the colony.

Friday the 27th of June being the day fixed for the yearly public examination of the Academy, the following gentlemen, among others, were present on the occasion, viz:—The Rev. Messrs. Elliott, Herdman, and Harper; A. P. Ross, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Management; P. Crerar, J. D. B. Fraser, D. Dickson, W. Gordon, and W. Mathieson, Esqrs. and J. McDonald. The examination in both departments was conducted simultaneously. The total number in attendance during the term was found to be about 120; the number in the English department, under Mr. Jack, being 80, and that in the classical and mathematical department, under Mr. Costley, 40. In the latter section, it may be proper to state, that the pupils receive instruction in Greek, Latin, French, Geometry, Trigonometry, Practical Mathematics, and the use of the Globes; and in the former, besides the more elementary branches, they are taught History, English Composition, Geography, and Arithmetic.

In all the above subjects, as the result of the examination clearly evinced, the scholars showed great proficiency. The readiness with which they answered questions in the different branches of study, clearly manifested the thorough training they had received from their respective teachers. In the classical department, the highest class read and translated with fluency a passage from the first Book of Virgil's *Aeneid*, which they also parsed and scanned very accurately, showing altogether the great care which had been taken in drilling them to a sound knowledge of the language. They also exhibited some acquaintance with the elements of Greek. In French, the pupils appear to be very well grounded, and to possess a correct pronunciation. In mathematics, the appearance was most creditable to the exertions of Mr. Costley; the boys acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of competent judges, who admired the promptness with which the different propositions were solved. In the English department again, the progress made by the various classes taught by Mr. Jack, was equally satisfactory, and well sustained the reputation which that gentleman has already won as an able, zealous, and

successful teacher of youth. In point of discipline and organization, the Academy appeared to the examiners to be in the highest state of efficiency. At the conclusion of the examination, Messrs. Ross and Mathieson spoke in the highest terms of commendation of both the masters of the Academy, whom they considered as having well and ably discharged their public duties, declaring that on no previous occasion had they ever witnessed a more creditable examination.

It would appear that it is not customary to distribute prizes at the annual examination of the Academy. But we would take the liberty to suggest, that a practice so widely prevalent, and which seems to have a decidedly beneficial effect in promoting emulation among youth, might be successfully introduced.

St. James' Church, Charlottetown.

THE following documents, which have been transmitted to us for publication, speak for themselves, and need no comment from us. They express the mingled conflicting and excited emotions of the congregation of St. James' Church, Charlottetown, and their pastor, on the sudden and unexpected separation which has lately taken place. We sincerely trust that this congregation will be sustained by the goodness of God under this renewed bereavement which they have experienced, and that our brethren in the ministry will render them all the assistance in their power.

JOINT ADDRESS OF THE KIRK SESSION AND TRUSTEES OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH, CHARLOTTETOWN.

TO THE REV. WILLIAM SNOODGRASS,—
Rev. and Dear Sir,—The sacred tie which so lately bound us together, having been so recently formed, we naturally cherished the hope that it would have subsisted between us for many years to come; it was, therefore, with feelings of no ordinary regret, that we received the announcement that your pastoral connexion with the congregation of St. James' Church, had now terminated.

The circumstances under which you were led to form such a determination, as explained by you, we are very willing to believe, were of such a nature as to render your leaving us a matter of conscientious duty on your part.

Permit us, Rev. and Dear Sir, to assure you that it affords us much pleasure in bearing testimony to your unwearied zeal in the discharge of the duties of your high and honorable calling, as a Minister of Christ, from the time you undertook our spiritual superintendence until now, a period extending over three years and a-half, during which, it is but due to you to state, that you have at all times exerted yourself to the utmost to advance the prosperity of St. James' Church, and the spiritual welfare of its adherents.

We cannot allow you to depart without our earnest prayers for your welfare, both here and hereafter—in which all who have had the pleasure of your acquaintance will, we have good reason to believe, most cordially concur. And we flatter ourselves that, in the more extended sphere of usefulness which you are henceforth to occupy, you will sometimes think of those who loved you and wished you so well; and if it ever should be in your power, in the good providence of God, to re-visit this, the scene of your first ministerial connexion, we need scarcely tell you, that you will be re-

ceived with the same respect and kindly regard which, it is consolatory to reflect, have so uniformly characterized our intercourse. We now bid you, Rev. and Dear Sir, an affectionate and final farewell, and commend you to the God whom you serve.

J. MACKIESON,

On behalf of the Kirk Session.

H. D. MORPETH, Chairman,

On behalf of the Trustees.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., 1st July, 1856.

MR. SNOODGRASS' REPLY.

TO THE ELDERS AND TRUSTEES OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH, CHARLOTTETOWN.

Gentlemen,—I thank you from my heart. I attach the highest value to your present consideration of me, as manifested in this parting token of your affectionate regard. The extreme pain which I feel in leaving this, my first charge, is greatly soothed by the testimony you now bear concerning my labours among you, and the assurance you now give that your earnest prayers and best wishes will follow me. While reciprocating all your kindly desires, I beg you to accept my word, that I shall ever take the warmest interest in your welfare. It will do me good to hear, from time to time, of your prosperity. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

W. SNOODGRASS

Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

MEETING OF THE SYNOD.

This Court met at New Glasgow on the 24th inst, and was opened by a sermon by Rev. John Cameron, Moderator, from Exodus xiv. 15, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."

Rev. George Walker was unanimously chosen Moderator, and having briefly addressed the Synod, took the chair accordingly.

During the session of Synod 33 ministers and 18 elders were in attendance, the whole number of ministers on the Roll being 40. The records of Presbyteries showed that, during the past year, the Rev. James Melan had been transferred from the congregation of Mabou to that of Gay's River, and that Messrs. J. W. Matheson and Alexander Cameron had been licensed as preachers. The concluding part of the first sederunt was occupied in the appointment of committees and other routine business.

3 o'clock.—A part of this sederunt was spent in devotional exercises, the Moderator being followed by Rev Messrs Miller and Smith. Presbytery of Truro announced that Mr. Samuel Johnston had been ordained by them to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Harvey. From the Report of the committee on Colportage it appeared that during the past year 12,060 volumes had been circulated, and during the past four years 35,579 volumes, for which £2,956 had been paid, and that the work is going on with diminished efficiency. The Synod expressed gratitude to the Board of Publication at Philadelphia for their generous assistance in furnishing books, and agreed to recommend that our congregations make some pecuniary acknowledgement for the benefit received.

The Synod re-appointed the committee of co-operation with other Presbyterian bodies, giving them full power to treat with the G