

ceive, and of the difficulties they have to struggle with, we cannot help looking upon this as a noble act of self-denial. In plain English, 70 of our ministers in Canada have given £200 each to the Endowment Scheme of the Canadian Church; and we have every reason to believe that their example will not be without influence on the minds of the lay members of that branch of our church. We commend it also to the imitation of both clergy and laity at home when they are called upon to contribute to Dr. Robertson's scheme for the Endowment of Chapels of Ease.

Another interesting feature in the proceedings of the Canadian Synod, is the zeal with which they have taken up the subject of Missions. Though they have great difficulty in supplying destitute localities in Canada, they have resolved to engage in missionary work. We have a strong conviction of the Christian wisdom and expediency of this step, for nothing is more calculated to strengthen a church, than its members taking an interest in the extension of Christ's kingdom beyond their own pale. We have not the slightest doubt but that the Canadian Church will be benefited by her missionary enterprises; for Foreign Missions always react powerfully for good; and we know of no cure for a weak church so likely to be effectual as taking a share in missionary work, and seeking to carry the gospel to those who are still more destitute than its own members.

The subject of a union of the different North American Synods of the Church of Scotland, into one General Assembly, was again before the Canadian Synod, and the decision seems to be, that it is only a question of time. We hope the day is not distant, when this most desirable result will be brought about; and when, if not annually, at least at no distant intervals, members from Scotland will encourage the British North American General Assembly by their presence.

We observe also an accession to the number of the ministers of our Church in Canada, of five additional labourers—three of whom are graduates of their own College in Kingston—one a licentiate of the American Presbyterian Church, and the other from the Irish Assembly.

There are still room for twenty or thirty clergymen more within the bounds of the Synod; and we would press this field upon the attention of our own licentiates, as one where, for many of them, there are greater prospects both of promotion and of usefulness than they can expect at home. And this we may also add, that in Canada, as in other places, the first who go are likely to be the best and best served.

The Synod of Nova Scotia held its annual meeting in July, in the town of Pictou, a place well known in many parts of the Highlands as the home of many Highland emigrants. With this off-shoot of our church, it is still the day of small things, no part of the colonial vineyard having suffered so severely at the secession. The present is a time of great prosperity, however, com-

pared with what our brethren there had to endure some years ago, when Synod and Presbyteries had ceased to exist and, of a church that once numbered above twenty-five ministers only three remained,—Messrs. Scott and Martin in Halifax, and Mr. M'Gillivray, "of the Mountain," who had to do duty for a whole county."

At the Synod of Nova Scotia delegates also were present—Mr. Henderson of Newcastle for New Brunswick, and the Rev. Dr. George, one of the professors of Kingston, for Canada,—a clergyman who is respected none the less, that it is told of him that, being the minister of a parish near Toronto during the Canadian rebellion, and the city being at one time threatened by the rebels, with that loyalty which has always distinguished the adherents of our church—he marshalled his parishioners, marched in at the head of them, and saved the town from pillage.

The Synod of Nova Scotia is composed of three Presbyteries—Prince Edward Island, Pictou and Halifax.

In Prince Edward Island, there are now three or four ministers, two of whom, Messrs. Lochhead and Duncan, have recently arrived from Scotland. Within the last month or two three additional labourers have also been sent out by the Colonial Committee to the Presbyteries of Pictou and Halifax so that affairs will now be in a more flourishing condition than they have been for many long and weary years, and grey-haired patriarchs, who "wept when they remembered Zion," and trembled lest they should have to go down to their graves leaving their children as sheep without a shepherd, will now enjoy once more stated Sabbath services. The Colonial Committee, we understand, are still prepared to send one or two more to this field, and then, immediately afterwards, to fill up the vacancies in New Brunswick. The greatest want in the Synod of Nova Scotia, is a few more Gaelic ministers, as there are many long vacant parishes in the neighbourhood of Pictou, where that language is absolutely necessary. Then there is the adjoining island of Cape Breton,—the most neglected spot within the whole mission field of the Church. There we had once a Presbytery with many flourishing congregations, and there we have still many staunch adherents if, in despair, they have not at last left the Church they loved so well. An English missionary would be of no use in Cape Breton, and this is the reason it has been so much neglected, as it has been impossible hitherto to get missionaries able to preach the Gaelic language; every inducement has been offered to lead some to go out, though it be but for a short period, to supply the religious destitution of their countrymen—most pathetic pictures have been held up before them—but in vain. If missionary spirit be wanting, one would suppose that there are other feelings which might lead a few to embark on this by no means perilous enterprise, as Highlanders have long been celebrated for chivalry of sentiment, and the love of kith and kin.

We are aware that the demand at home is almost, if not altogether, equal to the supply of efficient Gaelic ministers; still we hear sometimes of Gaelic preachers acting as missionaries in our Lowland towns, and of others who have the language but who are unwilling to preach it.

Several very promising young men, natives

of Nova Scotia, having the Gaelic language, are in this country and in Canada, pursuing their studies for the ministry of the Church in their native land; but some years must still elapse before they are ready for the work, and, in the meantime, many are passing away from the world, without any minister of Christ to be with them in sickness and death, and a generation is growing up without the sanctifying and transforming influences of regular Sabbath services. Let us attend, therefore, to our Saviour's prescription, and "pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."—*H. & F. Record*

[To the Editor of the Monthly Record.]

My dear Sir,—

I have a few words to say to the friends of our Church in these Provinces respecting your Periodical; and I shall be glad if you can afford room for them in your next number.

Lest my motives should be mistaken, I beg to state that I have no personal connexion with the Monthly Record, I have nothing to do with its management, and am not responsible, to the extent of a single penny, for the expenses incurred by its proprietors. Its success will put nothing into my pocket, and its failure will take nothing out of it. I have no private interests to serve by the words which my pen is now tracing; and what I say, therefore, is entirely upon public grounds.

Having said this much in order to set myself right with those whose eye may fall upon these lines, I come to what is properly the subject of my present communication.

It was with deep regret that I lately heard that the Monthly Record had hitherto received such slender support as to make it questionable whether the conductors should continue it any longer than the close of the present year.

Whilst this announcement grieved me it at the same time caused me no little surprise. I thought the day had ere now come when the expediency and even the necessity, of calling in the aid of the press in support of every good cause whether political or ecclesiastical, had been too generally recognized to require to be urged upon the attention of men. Such now is the state of the public mind and such its craving for information, that no institution whatever will long continue to prosper without some organ through which those who are working out its objects may communicate their views to the world.

Political parties are well aware of this, and, accordingly, each has its newspaper employed at once in defending its principles and communicating information respecting its objects. Every denomination in religion, in like manner, has its periodical, supported chiefly by that particular body; and by means of which all who claim connection with that body are strongly predisposed to take an interest in its prosperity.

There was a time when our Church enjoyed the advantage of a very influential and well conducted newspaper published in your city; and I have always deeply regretted that it