

ciely the effects which might have been anticipated, and the framework of a costly hierarchy has been set up. Still, a very considerable number remain steadfast to Presbyterian doctrine and discipline, and those who have lapsed may perhaps be yet restored.

On the first Sabbath after his arrival, Mr. Black was prevented by circumstances from preaching, but he visited a Sabbath School—the only one in connection with our Church—and he found the attendance good and orderly. A good Bible Class is also in prospect.

"The Manse" is now covered in, the floors laid, and the windows up. It is at present used as a place of worship, and contains about 200 persons. But a Church is in progress, to be built of stone, and suitably furnished. The people have subscribed fully to their means, and surely we and the Church at home ought to do something to help them. In this way only can we make up, in some measure, for past neglects.

Mr. B. finds that Gaelic is very necessary in the settlement, and a minister having that language will find the field a most productive one. The settlement has none of that semi-barbarism one might expect. There are good houses, good land, and good society.

After noticing the steps for raising a Church, Mr. B. adds:—"I do think that the Churches both in Canada and Scotland are bound to do something, and something handsome, too, to aid these long oppressed and neglected, but faithful and zealous people." "I am grieved to think of the past neglect of this place. Had a minister been sent out even twenty years ago, much grief and vexation and oppression would have been averted to these people, and how much more advanced they might have been!" "I repeat—let nothing be left undone to have a Gaelic preacher sent out by the Spring canoes, and in addition to piety and devotedness, let him be a man of respectable talents and acquirements, and of great prudence and circumspection. Pray give the Church at home to understand that it is not any man that will do for Red River. He will have an intelligent reading people to minister to, and if our cause is to prosper here, he ought, in point of learning and talent, to stand at least on an equality with the other resident Ministers."

The singular kindness of the Honourable Governor Ramsey, demands every expression of the most grateful notice. The thanks of the Mission Committee of our Church, and of the Colonial Committee of the Mother Church at home, will no doubt be formally communicated to that gentleman; but in the meantime we desire to make all grateful acknowledgments to those whom the Lord in mercy raises up as means for accomplishing his gracious ends, and in them to see the hand of Him who ruleth all.

TAX REFORM.—In a letter recently received from a friend, occurred the following remark, which is strikingly true, and we think worthy not only of being published, but of being read and pondered. How few of the aspirants to Parliamentary honours recognize the authority of God in regard to his own day! How little are such men to be trusted, "For foe to God was ne'er true friend to man":—"In all the political platform as yet published, not one is provided with a Sabbath Observance Plank. I think such a plank would strengthen a platform very much."

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

INDUCTION OF MINISTERS—BROCK—WHITBY.

On Thursday, 29th October, the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, an ordained missionary from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, was inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Brock and Reach, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Toronto, and in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The members of Presbytery who took part in the services on the occasion were the Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Wightman and Nesbet. The attendance of the congregations was perhaps not so large as it would have been had the state of the roads permitted a full convocation; but the whole service was conducted with solemnity and effect, and the audience, every way respectable, gave to their pastor a cordial reception. The prospect here is exceedingly good, and the people of Scott, a neighbouring township, have applied for a portion of the services of the pastor. The congregations in this district have been organised for two years, and a regular staff of elders and deacons then chosen. Messrs. Black, Smith, Kennedy and Mackay had been successively Missionary Catechists. Ordained Ministers occasionally preached, and the Lord's Supper was three times dispensed. But till now there has been no fixed pastorate formed. May the blessing of the Most High rest on the union!

At the town of Whitby, the Presbytery of Toronto met, on Wednesday, the 19th of November, for the induction into the pastoral charge of that place, of the Rev. James Finlay, late of Dalhousie. A call in his favour having been given in to the Presbytery at Brock, on Oct. 29th, was sustained, and a bond of provision for support of the minister was now submitted, and duly marked by the Presbytery in their minutes. Dr. Burns, of Toronto, presided on the occasion, and having preached from John i. 16, gave the narrative, proposed the questions, presented the induction prayer, and addressed the minister; after which Mr. Wightman addressed some suitable admonitions to the people, and Mr. Mitchell, of Brock and Reach, concluded with an appropriate prayer. The Church was well filled, and the congregation gave a hearty welcome to their new pastor.

This is the first settlement of a minister of our Church in Whitby. For three years, occasional supplies have been enjoyed by the congregation, which had been organised about a year ago. Now, they have the happiness of seeing settled among them a minister of experience; and the Church has in this and the neighbouring localities, every prospect of growing prosperity.

MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS.—EXAMINATION OF SABBATH SCHOOL.—An examination of the pupils in attendance on the classes of the Sabbath School connected with the congregation of Melville Church, Fergus, took place in the Church, on Thursday, the 30th October last, in presence of the Rev. George Smellie, Pastor of the Congregation; the Rev. John G. Macgregor, Minister of Knox's Church, Guelph, and a considerable number of the S. S. Teachers and parents of the children. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, and the almost impassable condition of the roads, nearly the whole of the pupils were in attendance. The recitation of Psalms and Paraphrases, and select passages of Scripture, with an examination on the Shorter Catechism, and several Scripture doctrines, proved

the fidelity of the teachers in training their youthful charges in these branches, and the diligence of the latter in learning their appointed lessons from Sabbath to Sabbath. The proceedings were then adjourned to the Manse, where the pupils were regaled with cakes and tea. After a few words of address from Mr. Macgregor, each of them received the present of a small book, and they were dismissed to their several homes, much pleased with the exercises in which they had been engaged, and the hospitality in which they had shared.

REVIEW.

THE LIFE OF A VAGRANT, or the Testimony of an Outcast to the value and truth of the Gospel. New York: Carter & Brothers. Hamilton: D. McLellan.

This autobiography combines with a simple narration of facts the romance of a novel, and is much more interesting than most of the books of fiction that issue from the press. We have no doubt of its genuineness. The evils of idleness and vagrancy are clearly demonstrated in this little book, and the most useful lessons may be derived from it. Habits of industry, in every case, as well as in the case of the author, are conducive to happiness. The only regret that one feels in reference to the reclaimed vagrant and his improved condition is, that he does not view his class as a curse to the country and an incubus upon society; but as "travellers," who, like artists and labourers, are a necessary part of the body politic, and entitled as such to consideration and respect. We could have wished that while he sympathised with his unfortunate brethren, he had spoken in terms of becoming reprobation of the cause of their wretchedness—idle vagrancy.

LETTER FROM MR. McMURRAY, ON THE WIDOWS' FUND.

BROCKVILLE, Nov. 17, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—

It must be gratifying to those who take an interest in the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to see the spirit that is manifested by our people in that scheme last organised by the Committee at Hamilton—the Widows' and Orphan's Fund. In the last Record Dr. Burns observes, in the sketch which he gives of his visit eastward, that in Brockville the amount of subscriptions to this scheme had reached £80. I am happy to be able to add, that the subscription list for Brockville shows the sum of £90 at present, a good part of which is in the hands of the Treasurer, Dr. Edmondson. I will not say that we may reach the round sum of £100, but this I think not improbable; for owing to other pressing matters we have not yet had time to complete our canvass. It is but due to state, that in Brockville we have, up to the present moment, been occupied somewhat by a debt against our Building Fund, and now that the Committee has got fully into their own territory, freed from the trammels of debt, we hope to advance with greater rapidity in public matters—including, of course, the schemes of our Synod. During the short period of four years the congregation in Brockville has built a beautiful and substantial Church, and with the exception of about £80, received from friends at a distance, has succeeded so far as to be able to say in this matter—"We owe no man anything." The Committee is at present expending some £40 in fitting up the basement story for the Sabbath School, a Session room, &c. "Time," it is said, "works wonders." We would simply observe, that persevering, patient labour in the cause of Christ, will and must be successful. We have reason, in the spirit of deep humility and gratitude, to say, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." In the course of a few days, our congregational collection for the fund referred to, together with the amount of subscription in our Treasurer's hands, will be duly forwarded.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

JOHN McMURRAY.