

having at their command the services of the Rev. James Nimmo, a minister of high talent and considerable colonial experience, they sent him out, on the terms originally proposed, to plant a congregation of our Church at Victoria, in Vancouver's Island. The earlier intelligence which, after his arrival, came to them from that remote region, was by no means re-assuring. An Irish Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Mr. Hall, had previously settled in the colonial capital; his ministrations had attracted almost all the Non-Episcopalian Protestantism of this place, and a handsome building had been erected for his use. When Mr Nimmo reached his destination, somewhere about thirty staunch friends of the Church of Scotland received him with a hearty welcome; but the adherents of Mr Hall, whose laudable efforts had entailed on them some pecuniary obligations, looked, not unnaturally, with a sinister eye on our missionary, as an intruder whose presence interfered with the success of their plans. Subsequent letters, by irresistible evidence, satisfied the committee that, for a minister with a family at Victoria, the covenanted salary of £300 was utterly inadequate; while yet, for an indefinite period at any rate, little, or even next to nothing in the way of supplement was likely to be contributed on the spot; and thereupon an addition of £150 per annum for two years was conceded, leaving the amount still materially short of what had been shewn to be requisite. The next communication described in strong language the difficulties which stood in the way of the Mission, and even suggested the propriety of its abandonment; but added that if a liberal donation—£1500—could be bestowed from home on the building of a church, there might still be a hope of ultimate success. Such was the state of things at the date of last year's report, after consideration of which, the General Assembly authorized the committee to do their best, if they should see fit, for the collection, by subscriptions or otherwise, throughout the Church, of a special building fund for British Columbia.

No attempt to execute this project was ever made. A few days after the termination of the Assembly's sittings, the committee received letters of the most discouraging kind, by which Mr Nimmo and his managers alike, in a strain of utter despondency, recommended that the Mission should be finally withdrawn. Tidings so adverse to their hopes and wishes threw the committee into a state of great perplexity. Satisfied that the failure was not attributable to Mr Nimmo, of whose activity as a pastor and ability as a preacher they had conclusive evidence, but merely to the untoward circumstances in which he had entered on his labours, and that it might therefore admit of an ultimate, though perhaps a tardy and distant remedy; they were nevertheless seriously alarmed at a prospective expenditure of indefinite amount, which, though mere money and the spiritual benefit of even a single soul are incommensurables, might be turned to better account in other quarters of the Colonial field; while yet they were extremely unwilling to abandon the enterprise, because if they were to do so now, they could scarcely expect at any given period hereafter, to obtain a footing for our Church in the colony. Before they had come to any decision, however, their deliberations were unexpectedly arrested by the arrival, in Edinburgh, of the Rev. Mr M'Lure from Londonderry. Representing the Colonial Mission Board of the Irish Presbyterian Church, his object in visiting Scotland was that of selecting a suitable successor to the Rev. Mr Hall, who had intimated his determination to retire from his charge at Victoria. The congregation which that gentleman was about to leave, had resolved that the vacant

office should be filled only by a Scotchman; and a majority of its members were understood to have expressed a decided preference for a minister of the Church of Scotland. To the committee here, the transference of Mr Nimmo to the first Presbyterian Church of the colony would have been a most acceptable arrangement; but the local feeling of jealousy referred to above put this out of the question. With Mr M'Lure, however, as frank as he was generous, negotiation proved to be both easy and agreeable. To occupy his pulpit at Londonderry, and afford him the means of forming an independent judgment on a selection of great importance, the committee sent over one of their approved candidates, the Rev. Thomas Somerville, in whom they had entire confidence, and the result, so far, has vindicated their choice. Mr M'Lure was thoroughly satisfied, and his communication to that effect was responded to by a substantially unanimous call, addressed to Mr Somerville by the congregation at Victoria—more than *substantially* unanimous, indeed, for, by letters accompanying it, the committee were assured that the long document, had post-haste permitted, would have contained the name in holograph of every church member in the place. So encouraging an invitation was at once accepted; and Mr Somerville, after having been ordained at Glasgow, sailed in February for the scene of his labours. Pending the correspondence affecting these arrangements, communications with Mr Nimmo were necessarily suspended, but his recall was inevitably implied in what the committee deemed to be the right issue of their negotiations—one Presbyterian congregation being, for the present, amply sufficient for the chief town of Vancouver's Island. His services have, therefore, been transferred to British Guiana, where an additional minister is urgently required. To this part of their report no more need be added, than the statement that, conceeding all that was asked, the committee agreed to pay Mr Somerville's outfit and passage, and to guarantee his stipend to the extent of £100, for one year.

THE CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Meeting of Halifax Presbytery.

THE ordinary meeting of this Court was held in the session-room of St. Matthew's Church, on Wednesday, 2nd August, 1865.

Present—Rev. G. M. Grant, Moderator; Rev. G. W. Stewart; Dr. Avery and P. Thompson, Esqrs., who handed in their commissions as representative elders of St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's Churches respectively.

In the absence of the Clerk, Philip Thompson, Esq., was appointed Clerk *pro tem*.

The Rev. J. McMillan appeared, and laid on the table extract of licence from the Presbytery of Ottawa, which was read, and Mr. McMillan welcomed as a probationer within the bounds of the Presbytery.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Philip was read, explaining his inability to be present, and stating that a grant of £50 stg. would be required from the Colonial Committee as supplement for the year 1865-6. The Presbytery agreed to make application for the amount through the Moderator.

A report was read from Rev. Mr. Philip. The case of the Rev. Mr. Romans, which had been referred back to the Presbytery by the Synod, was brought up, and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Halifax Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces on the subject, and endeavour to get