

and are highly appreciated by an intelligent and religious people. Mr. Goodwill has not yet obtained an assistant or colleague from Scotland; consequently he has still to occupy the whole field.

At the Annual Meeting of the Pictou Branch of the Bible Society the Rev. Robert Burnet, the Sec'y of the Society, gave an able, interesting and eloquent report of the proceedings of that Branch of this great association. The cause, thus advocated, is well worthy of the support of all our churches.

THERE is the near prospect of the Rev. P. Melville, M. A., B. D., being placed as pastor over the congregation of St. Columba, W. B. Mr. Melville is known as a distinguished scholar, an zealous, faithful, and efficient Pastor, and we have no doubt but his great earnestness, and marked ability will very soon make the congregation of St. Columba one of our most prosperous charges. He is one of those pastors who is not only ready to propose, but prompt to execute, and never wearies in his endeavours to promote the welfare of his flock.

The congregation of St. Columba has been severely tried by an unfortunate financial difficulty, into which they were unwittingly led—followed by a long vacancy. The former they have overcome and the latter we hope will soon terminate.

OUR adherents at the Vale and Sutherland's River have decided to go into Union—for what special reasons we have not yet learned. The United congregations will probably be strong enough to support a pastor. May those who have left us be happier and more prosperous with their new relations, than they were with the old.

We live in a time of rapid changes—novel experiments—remarkable transformations—erratic movements—radical proclivities; however startling the event, or singular the phenomenon, that arrest our attention in those days, we have come to the number of extraordinary occurrences following in swift succession, got into the habit of viewing the marvellous with composure, and exclaiming "this now;" "what next?"

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### **Notes of the Month.**

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THE occurrence during last month which has caused most discussion throughout the world has been the assassination of the Emperor Alexander the Second, "Czar of the Russias," on the 13th of March on returning from a review of troops. While the Emperor's carriage was approaching the Winter Palace an explosive missile of some sort was thrown by some person on the street which shattered the Imperial carriage, hurled the horses to the ground, and also the Circassian troopers who acted as escort; and destroyed the windows in the houses for a distance of three hundred yards. The Czar was seen emerging from the smoke when a second bomb was thrown with most deadly effect. The Emperor's legs