

that has taken place in the Colonial Mission, and, although you have not received such an accession to the number of your ministers as our friends in the Lower Provinces, it is because the Committee are acting upon the plan of supplying the deficiencies of one Synod before they proceed to another. I have no doubt that early in summer a goodly number of young ministers will leave this country for Canada; and this will be all the more necessary, as I have seen it stated in some of the Glasgow papers that an unusual number of respectable Scotch families are preparing to emigrate to your Province in spring. The Church is so abundantly supplied at Home now, and the aversion to emigration is so much lessened by steam communication and other causes, that I have not the least doubt that, if you had an agent in this country to beat up for recruits, at the time when the young men who finish their education this winter are obtaining license, you would have no difficulty in getting twenty or thirty, or any number you please, of young clergymen, to embark for your destitute localities.—The Endowment Scheme is also flourishing beyond former years, owing to the patriotism and piety and prodigious energy of Dr. Robertson. The result will not be known till the meeting of Assembly, but throughout the year he has had a series of successful meetings in all parts of the country, presided over by the first noblemen of the land, who have given magnificent donations, and whose example has had an excellent effect in stirring up others. Dr. Robertson is a great philanthropist and eminent Christian, and has given his whole energies to a noble scheme, which he has already proved to be practicable. Year by year he is writing his name in the history of the country, not as the great leader of a schism, not as the disrupter of Scottish religion, Scottish society, and Scottish nationality, but as a great Christian patriot inspired with the ambition of making provision for the preaching of the Gospel to the poor. As a token of the manner in which his labours are appreciated, he is to be made Moderator of the next Assembly, and from his sympathy with all living movements good things are expected of the Church under his direction.—The Jewish Scheme under the management of another Professor, Mr. Mitchell of St. Andrews, who has ample time fully to attend to it, and whose heart is in the work, bids fair to be much more successful, with God's blessing, than hitherto, and is already assuming the proportions of a large and efficient establishment in the East. Two young men, licentiates of the Church, who have been specially devoting themselves to Hebrew for the last few months under Professor Mitchell, are about starting for the Jewish Mission field, if they are not already on their way: so that the reproach that none of our Jewish Missionaries are Scotch clergymen will now be wiped off.—There is some dis-

position to reverse once more the decision of the General Assembly with reference to the accepting of grants in aid in India, but this feeling is, I think, chiefly confined to the Edinburgh Presbytery. That Presbytery has recently been occupied with another matter, in which considerable interest is felt throughout the country, the proposal to uncollegiate St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, the first charge of which is vacant by the death of Dr. Clark, who was so long the Acting Convener of the Colonial Committee, and to give the second Minister to St. George's. The proposal was made by the Town Council, chiefly on the grounds of the large size of the Church and the larger population in St. George's Parish. When it came to be discussed in the Presbytery, 18 voted for the change, 18 against it, and the Moderator gave his casting vote against: but an appeal has been taken to the Synod, and I have little doubt but that the higher Church Courts will reverse the decision of the Presbytery. Immediately after Dr. Clark's death, St. Andrew's Congregation petitioned the Town Council to present to the vacant charge Mr. Robertson, of Mains in Forfarshire, a young clergyman who is not so well known as some others, but who is spoken of by many as the first preacher in the Church.—Another important city charge, St. James's, Glasgow, is vacant by the death of Dr. Muir, a fine racy old man of the old school, who was distinguished in early life as a successful student, and throughout his ministerial career as a faithful minister of the Gospel. He preserved the manners, dress and language of the last century, and belonged to a class of ministers which is now nearly extinct. He was a great favourite in his own Parish, and wherever he preached; and, when he went to London to officiate for Dr. Cumming, which he frequently did, his countrymen flocked in crowds to hear him. He was often quaint in his illustrations and in the choice of his texts; as a specimen of which, he is said to have preached on the Sabbath after the Secession from the words, "And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem that were called, and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not anything." He will long be affectionately remembered by those who knew him, and those who sat under his ministry, and I have no doubt there are many Glasgow folk scattered through Canada who have pleasing recollections of Dr. Muir of St. James's.

I am afraid no great improvement is taking place in cordiality of feeling and Christian charity betwixt the Established Church and the Free. There is decidedly less open hostility than there was years ago, but there is very little increase of Christian intercourse. I think the Free Church is to blame for this, and that even those ministers, who would willingly overleap the narrow limits of sectarianism, feel themselves restrained by their position

from doing so. I see from their newspapers that they have still their own troubles about the election of ministers, and that their Presbyteries occasionally interfere with the choice of the people, and take up the cause of minorities, for which they have the example of Andrew Melville himself, the great advocate of popular rights in his day, but who was the first to interfere with his own principle, when the verdict of the electors did not please him—urging as his excuse, "that there were occasions when votes should be weighed, and not numbered." The Free Church had at the first and have still some from the upper classes among the young men of their ministry, and I have been told by candid members of that communion that the leaders have great difficulty in persuading congregations to accept such persons as their pastors.

I shall give you a specimen of the mortifying and humiliating lengths to which ignorant congregations will go, sent me the other day by a friend in the country. "The F. C. congregation of ——" he says, "are busy just now electing a successor to the late Mr. ——. The people have set their minds upon two candidates, and they are eagerly canvassing their respective qualifications. They cause them to go from house to house, which has the double advantage of providing their board, and of affording the opportunity to all of a minute inspection. They insist upon each remaining two weeks in the Parish, in order to prevent them from getting any assistance with their sermons; and, to make matters sure, it was actually proposed that their texts should be prescribed to them, that the congregation might judge who would make the most of them." This is a treatment to which no young man of any spirit would submit, and which, if general, would very soon utterly degrade the ministry. Our ecclesiastical divisions, which have driven so many to extremes, have disorganized society and greatly diminished social happiness; and, if I am not mistaken, religious life is happier in Canada, where you seem to have much mutual forbearance on the part of different denominations, where you are called away from strife by Christian activity, and where all are engaged in the hopeful work of laying the foundations of the institutions they love. It is the opinion of not a few, that new ideas must be received from our Colonies, and that problems of Church Union, &c., insoluble here at present, must first be tried with you, and I think there can be little doubt that every year the influence of their Colonial branches will be more and more felt by the mother Churches. Already, during the past year, the missionary exertions of our Sabbath Schools have received an impulse from the noble example that you have set us in Canada; and I trust that the Church at Home and the Church abroad will more and more react upon each other for good.