

worn down by sickness and wounds received in their country's cause, they cannot have a minister of their own church—one whose services they so much prize—to advise, to instruct, and to comfort them. Should you think of sending out any nice, simple, religious books for the use of our poor fellows here, or anything, in fact, that might conduce to their comfort or edification, I need scarcely say how gladly I shall do my best to second your endeavours."

Several additional chaplains have probably arrived since the above was written.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming in Glasgow.

On Wednesday night the Rev. Dr. Cumming delivered the first of two lectures in the City Hall to a crowded audience. The subject of the lectures, as announced in the advertisements, is "The End of the World—Its Proximate Signs," and the first embraced "The Physical Signs."

Sir James Campbell of Stracathro occupied the chair, and on the platform we observed the Rev. Dr. Hill, Rev. Dr. Barr, Rev. Dr. Boyd, Rev. Dr. Paton, Rev. Dr. Menes, Rev. Dr. Craik, Rev. Dr. Jamieson, Rev. Mr. McLean, Rev. Dr. Napier, together with a large assemblage of clergymen, elders, and influential members of the Church of Scotland.

The proceedings were commenced with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Hill, after which Sir James Campbell introduced Dr. Cumming.

The Rev. Dr. on presenting himself was received with applause. He commenced by stating that he had assumed that the attendance upon his lectures would mainly consist of the Christian students of Glasgow, and his surprise at finding present, in addition to students, so many eminent divines and elders of the Church of Scotland. The subject upon which he proposed to address them was one which he had studied closely for ten years, and he hoped to be able to shed some little light upon it, so as to render it worthy of the study of them all. He was here to speak essential truth as an ambassador of Christ, without hesitation, doubt, or diffidence. At the same time he did not profess to predict, but merely to explain: he was but an humble interpreter of that blessed book which, thanks be to God, was not now the monopoly of the few, but the privilege of all mankind. The topic to be discussed was called in the bills, "The End of the World," and it was his (Dr. C.) intention, first to adduce physical evidences that the shadows of evening, deep and broad, and black, are approaching, preparatory to the time when the whole earth shall be converted into a paradise.

The lecture, although scarcely adapted for the columns of a newspaper, was listened to with the utmost interest; and a vote of thanks having been given to Dr. Cumming, the proceedings were closed by Dr. Barr pronouncing the benediction.

News of the Month.

It could scarcely be expected in those critical and eventful times that a whole month would elapse without some important events; and hence we find that a new change has taken place in the Ministry—Lord Palmerston still remaining premier; Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. S. Herbert, the remaining adherents of the

Peelite party, have resigned and their places have been supplied by several Whig members, the Government having lost its coalition character, and avowed its leaning to the Whigs. Lord John Russell has accepted office as Colonial Secretary and been unanimously re-elected as one of the members for the City of London. Lord Carlisle is appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in the room of Lord St. Germain. A new Secretary, Mr. Horsman, and a new Attorney General, Mr. Keogh, have also been appointed for Ireland. The Committee of the House of Commons appointed on motion of Mr. Reebuck to enquire into the conduct of the war in the Crimea, has examined a number of witnesses and collected a large amount of evidence, but has not yet given in any report. The great and most astounding event on the Continent is the death of the Emperor of Russia, at St. Petersburg, on the 2nd March, in the 59th year of his age and after a very short illness from disease of the lungs.

"No single event," says the London Times, "could have happened in Europe of such momentous importance at the present time to the whole family of civilised nations; no event could have occurred more startling, from the contrast between the pride and power of a ruler who sent forth yesterday his myriads to battle, and seemed to hold the issues of life and death in his own hands, but who is now less than the last of his serfs, and lower than the dust of that empire which was lately his own. In the long army of history, and among those figures dimly seen along the march of the past which bear imperishable traces of their guilt and their doom, none stand in more visible mark of retroactive justice than he who has thus abruptly passed from the scene of human affairs. The summits of Belshazzar upon the fierce walls was not more appalling—the destruction of Sennacherib not more terrible. This blow has fallen not only on the armies which Russia has equipped for the defence of her territory—not only on her policy and her alliances, but more especially on the one great authority of the war, who has evaporated, with the loss of reputation, the loss of power, and the loss of life itself, the outrage he committed on the rights of other States and on the peace of Europe."

What effect his death may have upon the present disastrous and bloody war remains yet to be disclosed, although his eldest son and successor, Alexander the Second, has issued a proclamation invoking providence that in his person "he may accomplish the incessant wishes and views of Peter, of Catherine, of Alexander, and of our father," wishes and views well known throughout Europe. In the meantime, orders have been forwarded to the Allied Armies to carry on the war in the Crimea with the utmost energy and perseverance. The French Emperor has wisely for his own reputation, and at the request, it is said, of Lord John Russell, abandoned the idea of visiting the Crimea in person and will direct the movements of his troops from the Capital of his Dominions. A strict blockade has been established in the Black Sea since the 1st February, and a similar blockade will soon be established also in the Baltic.

There are rumours of some heavy fighting at Bakhlar or Sebastopol, and reports have gone the length of stating that the Grand Duke Michael, a younger son of the late Emperor, has been killed; but, while this latter rumour is discredited, there seems no doubt that severe conflict have taken place near Sebastopol, the purport of which, however, is yet but very imperfectly indicated. The position of Russia towards the Western Powers is as undetermined as ever. We give credit to the assertion that the Cabinet of Berlin claims to retain a position of independent conduct in ulterior negotiations. The German federal army is being provided for, but some of the smaller States find it difficult to raise the necessary funds. The political news brought over by the last land Mail

is in this is quite unimportant. The Governor-General has peremptorily refused to restore back to the Burmese Emperor the provinces taken during the recent war. An attack on the pirates of the Persian Gulf has been quite successful to British arms. The Chinese rebellion is raging fiercely, and is in abeyance at Canton—and it is expected that this great commercial city and trade mart will be taken, and the authorities put to death.

At Melbourne—at least so far as the diggings are concerned—there appears to be a violent rebellion raging against the Colonial authorities. The insubordination of the lawless and vicious portion of the gold hunters in refusing to pay for their licenses, was the cause of this most disgraceful affair.

The last lecture for the season before the Young Men's Christian Association, of this city was delivered on Tuesday evening, the 27th ult., by J. W. Marriott, Esq., at Temperance Hall. This spacious building was crowded in every part. The reputation of the lecturer had brought together an immense assemblage of persons with high expectations of pleasure and profit, to be derived from the discourse of the gentleman appointed. Nor was there any disappointment. Mr. Marriott's subject was "Reason and Faith." In a well sustained and logical argument, he clearly exposed the folly and falsity of the sceptics claim to be guided only by the slow deductions of reason and swayed by demonstration alone. He exhibited the close connection between the perfect exercise of Reason and that Faith which places the Christian beyond the influence of those dark doubts that cloud the mind of the infidel.—He earnestly urged the duty of every one to examine for himself the grounds of his belief, that he might be able to give a reason of the hope that was in him; and glancing at the ever-accumulating testimonies to the authenticity of our religion, gave utterance to his conviction that science would yet present such offerings to the confirmation of its truth as imagination could not now conceive.—*Provincial Wesleyan.*

Presbytery of Pictou.

I have been enjoined by the Presbytery of Pictou to transmit the following statement to you for publication.

ALLAN POLLOCK,
Clerk of Presbytery of Pictou.

Missionary Services.

		£	s.	d.
1854.				
Sept. 21.	West Branch, River John,	30	0	0
Dec.	Earlton,	27	0	0
1855.				
Jan. 13.	Cape John, - - -	20	0	0
Jan. 27.	Roger's Hill, - - -	36	0	0
		£123	0	0
Feb. 10.	Enclosed to William Young, Esq., 3 Moray Place, Edinb.	£123	0	0
	WILLIAM GORDON, General Treasurer.			

Collections in behalf of Messrs Ross and Livingstone, two young men from this country studying for the Ministry in Canada.

		£	s.	d.
1855.				
Jan.	Scotch Hill St. Andrew's Church, Pictou,	4	0	0
Jan. 15.	Cash from Rev. A. Maclean,	17	15	0
		£21	15	0

Jan. 23. Cash enclosed to Messrs. Ross and Livingstone, £21 15 0
WILLIAM GORDON,
General Treasurer.

Endorsed ANDREW W. HERDMAN,
Moderator pro tempore.

Received additional by the Rev. A. McKay, M. A. for the Student's fund.
From Hardwood Hill. £1 5 0
Earlton 7 9 0