

hear of the successful work of our brethren in the Maritime Provinces. May you continue to prosper in your work, and may God bless you in all things. The church of Scotland is slowly but surely recovering ground here. Many congregations have, for a long time, been without pastors; but we hope soon to have several vacancies filled up.

The work of reconstruction is, certainly, to some extent, a painful one. In spite of ourselves, the shadow of the past falls upon us. And, yet, there are elements of hopefulness in the work, notable among which is the loyal devotion of so many of the people to the Church of Scotland.

I think the Church of Scotland in Canada hardly realizes her strength. Why cannot all the several sections co-operate with each other? Perhaps it is too early yet to have one common Synod or Assembly; but could we not all combine in promoting Foreign Mission work? and could we not have a common Monthly Magazine?

In this way the strength of the church would be greatly developed, and she would begin to realize her latent strength.

Perhaps a word concerning the work of the church at Home from one who has recently come from Scotland, may not be uninteresting to you. Never, I believe, in her history has the church manifested such vigor as at the present day. Never has she won the affections of the people so thoroughly as now. The losses experienced in 1843 are more than made up; and persons from all religious bodies are flowing back to the pale of the Mother Church. That the Church of Scotland has a decided majority of the people in her favor, is evidenced by the fact that the dissenters have strenuously labored to prevent the Government from taking a religious census of the people. The dissenters are afraid to try this experiment.

One evidence of the strength of the Church exists in this, that no controversy in the Church Courts, in the slightest degree, affects her stability. However acrimonious some of the debates may be, the controversies do not affect the strength of the Church. She pursues her way calmly—strong in the confidence of her people. The striking contrast to this is the experience of one or other of the large dissenting bodies. Hardly a question of moment arises which does not force its way into the centre of the Church's life, and threaten to cut it in two.

Another evidence and element of strength in the Church of Scotland, consists in the success of her Home Mission work. Go where you will in Scotland, to some new

fishing station by the lonely sea-shore, or to the centres of mining and manufacturing districts, you will see some new church, where the rapidly increasing population receive the blessing of religious ordinances. The churches being erected, in such numbers, over Scotland are a proof that our Mother Church recognizes herself as the Church of the people.

The Church, too, is beginning to regain ground among the upper classes. There is a perfect revolution, though a calm one going on just now in the way of making her services more attractive, and more strictly devotional in character than they once were. And the educated and refined worship with pleasure and profit in the Mother Church, instead of running off, as once was the custom, to the services of the Episcopal Church. These are only a few of the points to be noted with regard to the work of the Church of Scotland. If I had time I could speak in detail of a still more pleasing fact regarding the Church, namely the zeal of her Ministers. It has been my privilege as assistant Minister in one of the Scotch Churches, frequently to preach for clergymen in various parts of Scotland, and thus I had ample opportunity of studying the inner life of the Church and noting the zeal and devotion of her ministers. I am convinced, from all I have seen, that the Church is entering upon an era of far greater usefulness than she has ever known before.

With best wishes,

Believe me yours sincerely,
CHARLES B. ROSS, B. D.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The dynamite fiends tried to blow up the British Parliament House and the Tower of London while crowded with visitors on Jan. 24th. Dire damage was done, and several lives despaired of. This devilish outrage recalls the old "gun powder plot" of 1605. It is a crime against the human race, and so cowardly, inhuman, and dastardly, as to rouse the execration of all nations, civilized and savage alike. In the United States Senate on receipt of the news of the explosions in London, Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill for the punishment of dynamite conspirators. Mr. Bayard also offered a resolution expressive of horror and detestation of such monstrous crimes against civilization. This was carried by the Senate's vote of 63 against 1.

ITALY is beginning to co-operate with Britain on the Red Sea.