

log of the Synod, do justice to the devotional spirit that characterised it. Now we regret that we did not distinctly notice the solemn and edifying way in which every Session, morning, afternoon, and evening of all the days of our assembling, was opened with prayer by our respected Moderator, and especially the morning session of every day, at which, according to the usage of former Synods, a portion of the Divine word was read, and prayer was engaged in by some member of the Synod. But the want to which anything approaching to the tone of complaint in our remarks had reference, was specially that of any action on the part of the Synod, for expressly promoting the revival of religion. We had hoped that a pastoral letter, bearing on this subject might have been issued, or an enactment passed for the visitation of congregations by Presbyteries or Synodical Commissioners as in 1845, or for a day of fasting and prayer throughout the bounds of the church for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. But the Committee on the subject brought in no report, and the Synod took no action in the matter. We intimated in charity, we must say, though it may have been in mistake, the opinion that the want of the report might have been from the afflictive providential event which affected two of the members of the Committee.

We recoil from the thought of being the censor of the brethren; but had our remarks approached the character of strictures, which they did not, we might have plead in apology the words of Solomon, "Open rebuke is better than secret love, faithful are the wounds of a friend."

We have before, again and again in these pages, spoken of a revival of religion as the grand desideratum of our Presbyterian Church in Canada, and as that grand object which the counsels and deliberations of our Church courts should especially seek to promote, believing as we do, that it is only through a greater measure of vitality throughout the Church, and that from a more copious out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, that it shall be distinguished for purity and oneness amongst its members; faithfulness in its profession and discipline, and efficiency and success in its ministrations towards the upholding and extending the kingdom of the Redeemer, and manifesting the glory of Jehovah.

NEW FREE CHURCH, GLENGARRY.

The following communication from a zealous and devoted missionary, came into our hands as we were making up for the press. In other circumstances we would have noticed it at more length. The prospect, on the whole, is very encouraging. The cause of the Saviour is advancing, and an eager thirsting for the Divine word is a token for good. We have the testimony of an eye-witness, to the intense eagerness with which the people, in that long-neglected region, welcome the heralds of salvation. Probably in our next we shall have something from Glengarry to lay before our readers. Our devoted people in that region have need of the prayers and the sympathies of their brethren in the faith. May they be protected and defended from the machinations and wicked designs of their enemies:—

To the Editor of the Missionary Record.
VANKLEEK HILL, C. W., July 23, 1849.

DEAR SIR,—

You will, I doubt not, be anxious to hear how the good cause is prospering in this part of the country. I am happy to say that I can now speak of matters with more confidence than when I arrived here in the end of April. Both here and at Lochiel I found the poor people very much cast down, after so many silent Sabbaths; having had no regular (indeed scarcely any) public meetings for worship since I left them last fall. We have had public worship since I came, regularly every Lord's day, in either place and sometimes in both. The people come out in great numbers to hear the word of life in their native language. Our church here is now too small for the congregation, and some of the people are obliged to sit outside. My Bible classes and prayer meetings are also, I am happy to say, numerously attended. The young seem to take much interest in our exercises. At Lochiel the attendance is seldom, if ever, I believe fewer than a thousand; while, the last Sabbath I was there, the attendance in the Established Church could not, I am told, have been more than fifty! We have hitherto worshipped in the open air, under a scorching sun, with no small danger, as you may suppose, to the preacher and the great multitudes of people who regularly assemble. I suppose we are the only parties in Canada, of any denomination, who meet in such circumstances; although it will not be the fault of the residuary Presbytery of Glengarry, if others be not very soon similarly placed, as you may see from the last number of the *Presbyterian*. For myself I might almost say, that in every city afflictions abide me, if not bonds.

The last time I addressed my countrymen in my native place, in Scotland, we had to assemble in a floating church, on the bosom of the deep; and the first time I preached to my countrymen here, it was without any covering, save the canopy of heaven; and we are so at Lochiel till this very day. I rejoice, however, to say that this desideratum, in the good providence of God, will, in due time, be made up. On Wednesday last, the foundation stone of a new church was laid at Lochiel, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The day was remarkably fine, and the people, who evidently felt deeply interested in the proceedings, turned out in great numbers. After devotional exercises, and reading the viii. chapter of 1 Kings, I addressed the people in Gaelic, on the principles of the Free Church. My friend, Mr. A. Craxford, (who, at the time, happened to be on a short visit,) and Mr. John McLaurin, of the Baptist Church, gave suitable addresses in the English; after which, Mr. Neil McCuaig, senior member of the session, laid the foundation stone. Several documents, bearing upon the testimony of our church, were deposited in the same. I was glad to observe many friends from a distance present; and though the proceedings lasted for three hours, the whole company remained till the close. The situation of the church is very beautiful, being on an elevated site, generously granted by Mr. Roderick McGillivray; and when the building is completed, it will be seen at a distance of several miles. The church is to be a substantial stone building, capable of containing about 1200 people. This is altogether an interesting event in the history of our church, in this much neglected district; and we fondly hope and pray that the blessing of the Great Head of the Church may rest upon this undertaking, and that it may indeed be a temple in which His name will be greatly honored, and many souls edified and saved. I am, Mr. Editor, yours sincerely,

ALEX. CAMERON.

P.S.—Subscriptions for the Building Fund of Lochiel Free Church, from our friends throughout the country, will be gratefully received by myself here, or by Mr. Malcolm McGillivray, Kirk Hill, Lochiel, C. W. We greatly need the sympathies and prayers of God's people throughout the church at large.

MISSIONARIES FROM IRELAND.

Since the meeting of Synod, four other ordained missionaries, from the Irish Presbyterian Church, have arrived amongst us, viz. the Rev. Messrs. Smith, Lowry, McPherson, and Mawhinny, making, with Mr. Holmes, mentioned in our last, five in all. Some of these brethren appear to have been expressly designated to our church, others of them, generally, to any of the churches in the colonies with which the Irish church is in correspondence.

We trust, that they will prove a valuable accession to the church here, and we cordially welcome them to our wide colonial field. It is much to be regretted that no notice had been sent from the colonial committee of the Irish church, to our Home Mission Committee, or to official members of our church, respecting the designation of these brethren, otherwise, arrangements would, no doubt, have been made for assigning them stations for the residence of their families, and for their own employment in vacant congregations, and in the missionary field, immediately on their arrival. As it is, the best will be done for them that the circumstances will allow, and we know that they will obtain a cordial reception from our people wherever they may be sent.

May the Great Head of the Church, who has brought them hither, some of them through deep affliction, continue to uphold them and theirs, and make them honored and successful laborers in this land.

REPORT TO SYNOD ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Your Committee regret that they have not had it in their power to make any effort in following out the object of their appointment, at all adequate to the vast importance of the matter entrusted to them. They, however, recommended and with the approval of the Synod, that all ministers and missionaries within the bounds of the Church, should discourse to their people, especially on the subject of the divine authority and proper observance of the Sabbath; and this your Committee believe has been generally done.

They also issued an address on the subject which had been read from many of their pulpits, as well as circulated in the pages of the *Record*.

Their attention has been called to prevalent abuses of the Sabbath, by canal labour going on; by unnecessary sailing on the Lake; and by all the varied usages connected with the Post Office, and with unnecessary travelling. They are satisfied that generally speaking the act of the Provincial Parliament, passed some years ago, is an excellent one, and requires only to be enforced; with this view, and also in order to bring all moral influences to bear in opposition to the growing evils of Sabbath desecration, the Committee recommended the formation of a Sabbath Alliance, or Sabbath Defence Association; such an association, however, must be composed of Christians of all denominations; and if the Committee shall be renewed, the Synod will see the importance of recommending this matter to their serious and prompt consideration.

The Committee recommend that at any meetings to be held during the sittings of Synod on the revival of religion, or the state of religion generally within their bounds, this subject should receive a large measure of their attention, satisfied as the members are, that no matters better deserve the Synod's notice, than the best means of checking the kindred evils of intemperance, and Sabbath desecration.

The Committee was re-appointed with instructions accordingly.

A. C.