

Sabbath week, the 27th instant, and intimate the same from the pulpit.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Presbytery of Miramichi.

WILLIAM HENDERSON,
Presbytery Clerk.

Letter—Rev. A. McLean, New Glasgow, Pictou, to William Young, Esq., Edinburgh, dated February 11, 1853.

I should have written sooner, but delayed doing so that I might be enabled to acquaint the Committee with some definiteness what my arrangements are likely to be. Our passage was rather a tedious one, and very rough; but any disagreeable sensation connected with a stormy passage might well be forgotten on our arrival at Halifax. We anticipated a cordial welcome; but we did not anticipate anything approaching to the kindness which we experienced from the adherents of our Church there. We remained among them about ten days; and Mr. Pollock and myself preached on Sabbath, and at the Thursday evening meeting. Mr. Sprout was absent a few days on a visit to his father. The same cordial reception met us from our friends in this county. Last week we had a meeting at the Rev. Mr. Macgillivray's, at which we were happy to meet the Rev. Mr. Herdman and delegates from the different localities. The object of the meeting was to arrange regarding the distribution of the missionaries' labour among the various vacant congregations, and also to take steps in order to organize these congregations with the view of placing them in a proper condition for giving a call to a clergyman, and for properly supporting him when settled among them. To the want of proper organization is to be ascribed altogether any backwardness or deficiency in their exertions for the support of ordinances, with which the people of this country have been sometimes charged in past times. That want of organization was the natural and indeed unavoidable effect of circumstances, over which they had no control. These circumstances have now in a great measure been changed. The different congregations in this county were, for more than twenty years past, able to pay their ministers, and, *à belicere*, they were willing; and any real or apparent deficiency was wholly to be imputed to their ignorance of a proper way of doing so—their total want of anything like system—their want of men qualified to manage the temporal interests of the Church. They are now fully alive to this themselves, and in every congregation there is a sufficient number of intelligent and practical men, who are fitted and willing to direct these matters.

Everywhere the same feeling prevails, viz., that they will not and must not be a burden to the Committee. The more I see of the state of matters here, the more I am convinced of the wisdom of the Committee's recommendation,—not to confine my labours to any one particular district. The number of Highlanders who adhere to our Church is very great; indeed the most of our congregations are chiefly composed of such; and, as I can speak Gaelic, there is a necessity that my services should be divided among them, as circumstances may point out, until we get one or two more Gaelic preachers from Scotland. I think, however, it would not be advisable for me to refuse a call from a congregation on condition that I would be allowed to itinerate for a certain portion of my time. On this condition I think I should accept a call; but on no other. Together with this I forward a pledge from the Rev. Messrs. Macgillivray, Pollock, and myself, to the Committee to the effect that we shall pay all expenses required for sending out to Pictou another Gaelic preacher. In doing so, we had particularly in view the Rev. Thomas Fraser, a young gentleman lately licensed. He was a fellow-student of mine during my course in Aberdeen. I was, before leaving Scotland, given to understand that he was willing to come to this country; aware that it would be unreasonable to expect the Committee to send another to Pictou at present. I requested him not to apply until he had word

from me. I intend writing by this mail to acquaint him that we have sent to the Committee the pledge referred to; and, should he, on receiving my letter, feel disposed to make application, I do humbly but most earnestly entreat that the Committee would take the matter into their favourable consideration. I know him intimately; and from my knowledge of his talents, prudence, and piety, I know his arrival among us would be a blessing.

Unless we get one or two Gaelic preachers of his stamp, I know not what will become of our Gaelic people. We have, besides the thousands of Pictou, several half-joined and half-scattered congregations in the surrounding districts. Prince Edward's Island, with its various Gaelic localities, must not be altogether neglected. I am led to understand that we have besides large numbers in Cape Breton firmly adhering to our Church. We are so weak in Gaelic preachers that the difficulty of ever attempting to supply so fearful a destitution leads one almost to despair. In these circumstances, and in the above mentioned condition, I do hope the Committee will extend their indulgence to this country one other step. For such a favour we shall not only hold ourselves accountable to the full amount, but shall also be under a debt of gratitude, of which we shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance.—*The Home and For. Miss. Record for April.*

Letter—Rev. A. Pollock, Wallace, to William Young, Esq., Edinburgh, dated 10th February, 1853.

I believe it is now more than time that you should be informed as to my proceedings since I came to this country. You would see by the advices that my friends and myself experienced a long and rough passage from Liverpool to Halifax. We arrived in the latter place after a voyage of fifteen days. Mr. McLean and I remained in Halifax over the next Sabbath. We officiated in both churches in this city. We have experienced much kindness on the part of the friends of our Church there, and everything was done by them to facilitate our movements in that part of the Province to which we intended to go. I preached in New Glasgow on the Sabbath following to a large congregation, and, instead of proceeding to Wallace, which, by the recommendation of the Committee, was my final destination, I remained in Pictou county, and preached in the West-River Church on the next Sabbath. The reason of my delay was the following: As there are now so many more preachers on the field than formerly, it became necessary that their movements should be as much in concert as possible; and that means should be adopted to make the churches aware as to the time when they might expect services. For this purpose, and also for the more perfect organization of the Church here, which, on account of the number of vacant congregations, and consequent infrequency of the services, stood in a position of almost complete disorganization, as far as united action is concerned, it was arranged by the Rev. Mr. Macgillivray and a few gentlemen that a general meeting of delegates from all the congregations in Pictou should be called to meet at Maclellan's Mountain, to take into consideration the better organization of the Church in this part of the Province. This meeting accordingly took place on the 2nd current at Maclellan's Mountain. The first proceeding was the re-formation of the Presbytery of Pictou, which, having been adjourned "*à sine die*," had not met since the Secession. The Rev. Mr. Macgillivray, as the former moderator, opened the proceedings with prayer. There were present, the ministers at present in the county with the exception of Mr. Mackay, who from sickness was unable to attend, and elders from the several churches. Mr. Macgillivray expressed his gratification on the occasion of the first meeting of the Presbytery since the Secession, when he had been left alone to discharge in that part of the Province the duties of a minister of the Church, ever onerous, but by this untoward circumstance rendered more oner-

ous than before. He referred to the many discouragements which it had been his lot to feel in the peculiar position in which the Providence of God had thus placed him, and stated that, having been so long without help, he had been often led to despair of it altogether; but had been often cheered in spirit and sustained in his exertions by the gratitude with which his labours had been received, and the sense of a conscientious performance of duty. He also made known his acknowledgements to the Church at Home for the aid given through the instrumentality of the three Deputations to the country, and the active services of the Rev. Messrs. MacNair and Herdman. But still the field was large, and he expressed his hope that, from the additional labourers now sent to his aid, better days were dawning upon the Church in Pictou county, and that, by the blessing of God, she should be as in days of old. The business transacted by the Presbytery consisted principally of arranging the days on which the churches in regular succession should enjoy the services of Messrs. Mackay and Maclean. The Presbytery then adjourned. The members next met with the delegates from all the congregations in Pictou. After much deliberation, which was characterized, on the part of every man present, by an admirable spirit of accommodation, tempered with Christian zeal and unanimity, the following resolutions were agreed to by the meeting. These are better fitted to make you acquainted with what was done than any detailed account which I can furnish:—

I. Resolved, that each congregation be recommended at the earliest opportunity to hold a congregational meeting for the purpose of appointing a Committee of Management with Secretary and Treasurer, and that the clergyman, who should preach on the preceding Sabbath, be required to attend the same; and that each congregation be recommended to procure a Book of Record without delay.

II. Resolved, that each congregation be recommended to incorporate itself according to the existing law of the Province.

III. Resolved, that each congregation pay the sum of £3 currency into the hands of their Treasurer for every Sabbath-day service, to be accounted for to a General Treasurer; and that such Treasurer be James Fraser, Esq., New Glasgow, whose duty it shall be to receive and transmit the moneys to the Colonial Committee of the Church; and that such moneys be paid in before the first days of July and January each year.

IV. Resolved, that immediate steps be taken by each congregation to collect money annually for sending three young men Home to Scotland to study for the ministry, and support them; the first payment to be made before the first of July, and the second before the first of January each year, and the money to be handed in to James Fraser, Esq., New Glasgow, as General Treasurer.

I entertain no doubt whatever that these resolutions shall be confirmed by the several congregations to which they are sent; but of this you shall be informed in a subsequent communication. You will perceive that they are almost all framed in pursuance of the object aforementioned, the organization of the Church. With the exception of the congregation worshipping in Maclellan's Mountain under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Macgillivray, and that in Pictou, presided over by Mr. Herdman, the members of our Church are scattered throughout the districts without office-bearers of any kind; inasmuch as, where sessions have formerly existed, these have not been able to meet as a body through the want of a regular minister. Consequently neither can the ordinances be properly administered, nor discipline maintained, nor contributions for the support of the Gospel be raised. You will perceive also by the last resolution on the list, that the people here are now alive to the necessity of their Church being supplied with ministers out of their own country, and of devising means for a regular system of supplying clergymen for the Church here by sending Home and supporting suitable young men from among themselves for the office