

MEETING AT ALDBOROUGH.

ALDBOROUGH, December 21st, 1844.

THE Presbyterian congregation of Aldborough, Danwich, and Orford met this day at their Church, for the purpose of taking into consideration the question which has, of late, agitated and divided the Church of Scotland. After sermon by Mr. Steel, Mr. John McDougall was called to the chair. The Rev. Mr. Steel was called upon to address the meeting on the subject in question, after which the following resolutions were moved, seconded, and passed without a dissenting voice.

1st.—It was moved by Mr. George Henry, and seconded by Mr. Angus McKay, that it is the belief of this meeting, that the Church of Scotland has, in her acting of late years, greatly deviated from the principles of her Constitution, both as regards nonintrusion and spiritual independence.

2nd.—It was moved by Mr. Currie, and seconded by Mr. Angus Gunn, that it is the belief of this Meeting, that the submission which the Church of Scotland yields, and has been bound to yield, to the Civil power in spiritual matters, is altogether inconsistent with the privileges and freedom essential to a well organised Church of Christ, and amounts to a denial of the headship of Christ himself.

3rd.—It was moved by Mr. Hugh Gunn, and seconded by Mr. Archibald Currie, that it is the duty of every one who values the purity of the Church, and that has the interests of religion at heart, to bear testimony against such encroachments on the part of the civil ruler, and such submission on the part of the Church, as a sin, both on the one side and the other.

4th.—It was moved by Mr. George Mathieson, and seconded by Mr. Niel Ruthven, that this Meeting, with all that adhere to it in this place, separate themselves from the communion of the Church of Scotland, and join themselves to the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

OWEN'S SOUND.

STONHAM, December 22nd, 1844.

REV'D SIR.—The Presbyterians of the northern division of the Owen Sound Settlement being destitute of the ordinances of religion, have held a public meeting for the purpose of adopting measures to procure a gospel ministry amongst them. The subscription lists (which were previously sent round the settlement,) being produced, it was found that the names were all subscribed on the column for the Free Church: with this unanimous declaration the meeting appeared highly satisfied, and proceeded in the first resolution to declare for the Free Church. The next resolution was to select a committee of 20 persons, with Treasurer and Secretary, who are authorised, in the first place, to communicate with the Presbytery of Hamilton, and to make application for a Preacher, for a short time during winter. Wherefore we, the subscribers hereof, who form a part of the above committee, being unacquainted with any of the above Presbytery, are kindly directed by our worthy agent to make an application to yourself, or thro' you to the Presbytery. We beg leave to state that it will be necessary in making application for a Minister, or giving a final call to one, that he be able to preach in Gaelic as well as in English, as many of the settlers from the Highlands do not understand English well. In making this application, we do not insist on any limited time; we shall be happy to hear the voice of a Minister of our own Church proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation amongst us, during such time as the Presbytery shall find it convenient for him to remain.

We are happy to understand we are now addressing one who took such an active part in the late difficulties and final division in our Church, a division which is hailed with pleasure by the Christian world, and which we hope Heaven will bless and prosper.

The bearer, Mr. Telfer, will be able to commu-

nicate any thing further we may have omitted.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

GEORGE BROWN, *Treas'r*,
HUGH McDERMID, *Sec'y*,
JOHN MCKAY,
MALCOLM MCGREGOR,
FRANCIS ARNOT.

REV. JOHN BAYNE.

LETTER FROM DR. P. M'FARLAN TO REV. MR. BAYNE.

Committee Rooms, 7, North St., St. Andrew St.,
EDINBURGH, 25th October, 1844.

REV. DEAR SIR,

The Committee appointed by the late General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to answer letters of congratulation from other Churches, acknowledge with respect and gratitude the receipt copy of resolutions by your congregation, approving of the proceedings of ministers, elders, and others composing the Free Church of Scotland.

The unanimity with which the resolutions appear to have been passed, the sympathy which they express, and the liberality with which the congregation has contributed to our funds, are exceedingly gratifying. Not less so is the firmness and decision with which your flock and you have taken your ground on the great scripture principle, the infringement of which by the civil courts and parliament of Great Britain, has led to the disruption of the Church of Scotland, here and in Canada. It is matter of deep regret to us, that your example and that of other congregations in the two provinces, have not been followed universally by your brethren in British North America. We have learned, however, that with the diffusion of information respecting the truths at issue, a growing interest has been awakened; and we have not yet relinquished the hope that some at least of the congregations who have not dissolved their connection with the Scottish Establishment, may perceive that it is their duty to their divine master to come out and be separate, and to take their place with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, as a Church honourably and boldly testifying for the supremacy of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the spiritual liberties of his people.

It is our earnest wish and prayer, that all the congregations in the Canadas who have acted thus—and yourself and your own flock in particular, may enjoy an abundant and gracious reward in the communication of peace and every spiritual blessing, and the increase of real piety in the individuals and families adhering to the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

In name and by appointment of the Committee,
PATRICK M'FARLAN, *Convenor*.

To the Rev. John Bayne, }
Galt, Canada West. }

The following brief memoir of Mr. Thomas Crichton, of Paisley, will not, we trust, be deemed inappropriate to our pages. Mr. Crichton, we know, long took a lively interest in the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was, no doubt, led to this, from the circumstance of having had one of his sons in this Province, and also from his intimacy with Dr. Burns—the originator of the Glasgow Colonial Missionary Society, and chief director of that society during the whole period of its existence. The son of Mr. Crichton, to whom we have alluded, is an intelligent and active Elder of the Church in the township of Caledon, and, for his sake, and others of the family in the Province, we acknowledge that we are the rather disposed to give the memoir a place in our columns. We shall not be surprised to hear that it was from the pen of Dr. Burns, as we know that he held the subject of it in high respect. The memoir appeared in the *Renfrewshire Advertiser*, and is quoted by us from the *Scottish Guardian* of the 26th November last:—

THE LATE MR. THOMAS CRICHTON.

We cannot allow the sudden departure of this venerable man to be the subject of announcement merely, in the lists of an obituary, or in the chronicle of passing events. Mr. Crichton has been long a justly esteemed citizen of the community of Paisley. He held an important office in connection with one of our municipal institutions, the duties of which he discharged faithfully for the long period of half a century. His career has been marked by a course of humble, unobtrusive, and unostentatious usefulness; and he has been gathered to his fathers like a shock of corn when it is fully ripe.

Mr. Crichton was born in Paisley of reputable parents on the 7th January, 1761. His profession was that of a teacher of youth, and all his labours in this most useful department, were subordinated to the great end of imbuing the young mind with the seeds of moral and religious principle. He was elected master of the Town's Hospital in July, 1791. He became an elder in the Middle Church parish in 1798; and he was chosen Session Clerk to the High parish in 1805. At the time of his death, he was the senior elder of all the Presbyterian denominations in Paisley; and as the father of the Free Middle Church session, he was honoured to lay the foundation stone a few months ago of the church of that congregation; an edifice which he just lived to see completed, and at the opening of which, on Friday evening, he was enabled to be present, and with feelings of no common interest engaged in the services. Although he had almost completed his eighty-fourth year, he enjoyed no ordinary measure of health both in body and mind, and his death on Monday last was really a translation. On the afternoon of that day, his minister, the Rev. Mr. Forrester, had conversed with him for an hour, and he was remarkably lively and cheerful. Shortly after Mr. Forrester left him, he was employed in copying some poetical pieces of his own composition, when the pen suddenly dropt from his hand; he lay back in his easy chair, and instantly expired. The lines which he had written were as follow:—

“Isaiah, Judah's bard, in strains sublime,
Shall gain new glories through revolving time.
The fate of empires, hear the prophet sing
The matchless glories of th' Eternal King;
And guide the darken'd mind to radiant light,
Beyond all earthly splendour, glo . . .”

Here the trace of the falling pen is drawn across the paper, as it had dropt from the writer's fingers. A slight moan indicated to his wife and daughter something unusual. They were in a moment at his side, but all was over. The pen, it was found, had stoop in the middle of the word “glory,” near the termination of the line, and a faint diagonal scratch along the paper, indicates the course which it assumed after the hand that held it became incapable of action. A smile rested on his face, and he seemed as one softly asleep.

Mr. Crichton was a person of considerable literary attainments and habits. Possessing a sound understanding, and a remarkably retentive memory, he was singularly fond of reading, and he thus laid up in store large masses of useful information, which he was ever ready to communicate. He had a particular fondness for the productions of the British bards—and he was the author of several poetic pieces of considerable merit. In the periodicals of the day, particularly the *Scots Magazine*, and the *Edinburgh Christian Instructor*, he wrote a variety of useful articles; and his biographical accounts of Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Snodgrass, and Dr. Findlay, are exceedingly interesting and valuable. With the eminent person at the head of this list he was personally acquainted, and no topics interested and delighted him so much as those connected with the career of that illustrious president of New Jersey College in America. A few years ago, Dr. Ashbel Green, the successor of Witherspoon in the college, and now the father of the American Presbyterian Church, applied to Mr.