

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

ACTON AND NASAGAWEYA.—These stations form an united charge, and there is a considerable Gaelic population. The church at Nasagaweya has been of several years standing, and the settlers there had once the privilege of the services of the Rev. Mr. Meldrum, now of Pashich. The people have recently had a handsome pulpit erected in their church, and the whole of it comfortably seated.

The place of worship at Acton was opened three years ago, and is a large and comfortable building. The organization of the church did not take place till this summer, and it was conducted partly by Dr. Burns and partly by the Rev. Jas. Harris, and the Rev. John McLachlan. An Eldership was also chosen and ordained. On Sabbath, Oct. 20th, the ordinance of the Supper was dispensed at Acton, when the services were conducted by Mr. Harris and Mr. McLachlan. The church was filled, and the school-house, (very appropriately placed beside the church), was also crowded by a Gaelic congregation, to whom Mr. M. preached, and whom he also addressed at the table of the Lord. The season was a most refreshing one; and the next congenial movement will be, the settlement of a pastor. A student of Knox's College, who has both languages, has been the object of their choice.

The married ladies of the congregation have presented a very handsome Pulpit Bible and Psalm Book.

HAMILTON.—INDUCTION OF THE REV. GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG, A.M.

The Presbytery of Hamilton met on the 22d of November, for the purpose of inducing the Rev. George Paxton Young, A.M., into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Knox's Church, Hamilton. The Rev. John G. Macgregor, of Guelph, preached from 2 Cor. iv. 5., and presided on the occasion. After sermon Mr. Macgregor gave a narrative of the steps which had been taken. The Rev. Mr. Stark had moderated in a call on the 12th Nov. The call was subscribed by 229 communicants and 115 adherents. It had been considered and sustained by the Presbytery, and Mr. Young had signified his willingness to accept the same. Mr. Macgregor, then, in name and by the authority of the Presbytery, demanded if there were any objections to the settlement. None being preferred, the questions of the formula were put by Mr. Macgregor, and satisfactorily answered, when Mr. Young was, by prayer, inducted as minister of the congregation.

The Rev. Mr. Chryne, of Saltfleet, addressed the minister on the solemn responsibilities of his office—the great object of the gospel ministry, viz. the conversion and salvation of souls—the work itself—to preach Christ, and him crucified—this is to be done, not only from the pulpit, but in private ministrations—in teaching the young—visiting the sick; the gospel is to be preached from house to house. It is of importance that a minister himself feed upon Christ, in order to

feeding his flock. To be successful in winning souls, a minister must be earnest at the throne of grace for guidance and help.

Mr. Stark addressed the people. He felt the occasion to be solemn in the retrospect and hopeful in the prospect. Mr. Stark made a feeling allusion to the death of the late Rev. Mr. Robb. The congregation were exhorted not to rest entirely on the Church or on privileges, but upon the Bestower of privileges—they had cause of gratitude in obtaining the man of their choice, to minister among them in holy things, and break the bread of life. Mr. S. said, that although caution should be exercised in reading the events of Providence, yet, its leadings could scarcely be mistaken in the present instance—that success depends much upon the people, not wholly upon the minister; nor have a people done all that is needful when they have secured the services of a pastor—that they are bound to profit by his ministerial faithfulness—to welcome his admonitions and exhortations—that they are to remember the end of his ministry—not like the world, to be offended at reproof, nor shut out the light because it humbles pride—that esteem is due to a minister for risking offence in faithful dealing for the good of soul—that it is not the preacher who holds a congregation together, but it is the truth, which will not let them go. As a people feel the truth, they will value the ministry—that ministers, like other men, are not without their faults. Mr. Stark referred to the history of Moses, David, Peter, and Paul, and charged the people to be tender to their minister as they would have God to be tender to them—to be patient of his infirmities—not to value too highly acquired intellectual gifts—that these will not save, nor enlighten the mind, nor satisfy the soul;—seek Christ, hunger and thirst after him.

In order to encourage a minister, give heed to his teaching and doctrine. The attendance of a congregation increases a minister's zeal; cooperate with him in his work, which is the concern of all and of each. Sympathy and co-operation excite to diligence. The other office-bearers are fellow-workers with the minister—all are interested, and have an appointed work to perform. They who are not for, are against Christ. The plea of want of influence will not shelter any from discharging their duty. Exhibit a consistent walk and conversation. Strengthen the hands of your minister, by keeping him free of concern about temporal support. Prayer for the minister is holding up his hands. Fervent, believing prayer, avails much. It is the solace and encouragement of a minister to know, that the prayers of his faithful people are meeting his own at the throne of grace. The visits of a minister are to be valued for the ends and objects for which they are made—not for social intercourse, but for the welfare of souls. They who complain of the neglect of visiting, are often those who least value its great end. Should the minister omit any, let them go to him—the sick send for, or go to the physician, and do not wait until he may come in their way. Let people keep much in the eye of their pastor, by attending upon his ministry, and observing ordinances—cherishing free, confiding intercourse with him—seeking not to involve him

in secular concerns—making free with him in spiritual matters.

Mr. Stark concluded, by remarking, that the day's proceedings might be ground of condemnation to some. All should search the scriptures, to see whether these things are so. Let not the invitation of 2 are be the sentence of condemnation. Turn not the day of mercy into a day of wrath. Now is the accepted time.

The congregation met again at half-past 6 o'clock, P. M., in the basement story. The spacious Lecture-room was filled with a delighted audience. Instead of the Presbytery being entertained by the congregation at the *head inn*, according to long-established custom on such occasions, refreshments were furnished liberally to all who chose to attend the social meeting. The company we suppose to have numbered five or six hundred. Several respectable individuals of other communions were present, and all seemed greatly to enjoy the evening's exercises. All honour is due to the congregation of Knox's Church, Hamilton, for the excellent spirit that prevails amongst them; for the kindly feelings manifested by the session and members towards each other, in respecting one another's opinions, and aiming at the promotion of the unity and peace of the congregation. It is pleasing to see Christian men courageously breaking through those habits and customs which time seems to have hallowed, to which, from long practice they had been reconciled, but which experience is plainly proving to be unfavourable to the interests of morality and religion, and especially because the mass of the people, and the young of the congregation, who take the deepest interest in such scenes, were excluded.

John Fisher, Esq., Mayor of the city, and an elder of the congregation, proposed that Mr. McLellan, should preside, which was cordially agreed to. The meeting was opened with praise and prayer. After which the Chairman congratulated the congregation on the happy circumstances in which they were assembled—expressed gratitude to God for all the way in which they have been led—noticed His varied dealings with them in judgment and in mercy, and expressed the delight with which he, and the congregation, now welcomed among them the pastor of their choice. The Rev. Mr. Gale, having come in, was called upon *impromptu* to address the meeting. He alluded, with much feeling, to the solemn events of the last few months, recognized the hand of God, in sending to the congregation a minister of the character and attainments of the Rev. Mr. Young,—one, in the choice of whom, by the people with whom he had once stood in the same close relation, he entirely concurred, and from whose labours he anticipated most satisfactory results.

The Chairman then introduced the Rev. Mr. Young, who reviewed the chain of circumstances, which, in the mysterious providence of God, had so unexpectedly cast his lot in this part of the vineyard; expressed his unfeigned satisfaction, at finding so much unanimity and harmony in the congregation—could not decline what he considered a call from God, and was confirmed in the