

## ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.**—The Presbytery of Hamilton held a special meeting at Niagara on Tuesday, the 25th inst. The members present, were Mr. ROBERT MACGILL, Mr. MARK Y. STARK, Mr. ALEXANDER GALE, Mr. ANGUS MCINTOSH, and Mr. JAMES GEORGE, of the Presbytery of Toronto, Ministers, and the Honourable JOHN HAMILTON, Ruling Elder. The Presbytery having been constituted with prayer by the Rev. M. Y. Stark, Moderator *pro tem.*, he stated that this Meeting of Presbytery had been called in consequence of a letter received by the Clerk from the Rev. Robert Macgill, intimating that he had received a presentation to the Hutchesontown Church, parish of Gorbals, Glasgow, and requesting that the Presbytery should meet as soon as possible to take this presentation into consideration, and determine in regard to his release from his present pastoral charge. The Presbytery approved of the conduct of the Clerk in calling this meeting, and proceeded to the consideration of the business specially before them. On enquiry, it was found that due intimation had been given to the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Niagara, of this meeting of Presbytery, and of the object thereof, and that the congregation was in attendance accordingly.

The letter of presentation, signed by William Collins, Esq., in behalf of the Glasgow Church-Building Society, was then given in and read, and Mr. Macgill was requested to state his views in regard to accepting the same. Mr. Macgill addressed the Presbytery at considerable length, stating in affecting terms the difficulties in which he found himself placed on this occasion—feeling as he did on one hand, the tender and sacred ties by which he was connected with his people in Niagara, and on the other hand, being not insensible to the attractions which were presented by his native land, and the prospect of a wider field of usefulness there. Mr. Macgill concluded by expressing his wish to leave the matter wholly with his brethren of the Presbytery, and his readiness to acquiesce in such decision as they might think most conducive to the glory of God and the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Mr. Macgill was allowed to retire at his own request.

The Moderator then intimated to the congregation that it was the desire of the Presbytery to be further acquainted with their views, in regard to the removal of their present pastor—Whereupon James Cooper, Esq. one of the Elders, stated to the Presbytery that in consequence of the intimation they had received, a meeting of the Congregation called by the Elders, had been held in the church yesterday, for the purpose of considering what course it became them to pursue on the present occasion, and that they had drawn up a memorial which contained their unanimous sentiments in regard to Mr. Macgill's proposed translation to Glasgow. This memorial was given in by Mr. Cooper and read; and the congregation assembled being interrogated, intimated their unanimous concurrence in the terms of the memorial. This memorial was ordered to stand as a part of the minutes, and is as follows:—

**UNTO THE REVEREND, THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON—**  
The Memorial of the Members of St. Andrew's Church, Niagara Sheweth—

That your Memorialists have learned with min-

gled feelings of pleasure and regret, that their honoured and esteemed pastor, the Rev. Robert Macgill, has received a call from a congregation in the city of Glasgow, and that in consequence thereof, there is a probability that his valuable labours may be discontinued in this place.—With pleasure, because they rejoice that his eminent piety, distinguished talents, and unwearied assiduity in labours of love in this remote corner of the christian vineyard, should be so highly appreciated by a christian community in a distant land,—with exceeding regret, as they cannot but fear that his removal at this time would be a too evident token that the candlestick of the Lord is to be withdrawn from the Zion of their ancient father-land in this place.

In accordance with this view, but without presuming to dictate to you, Reverend Sirs, your Memorialists beg leave to lay before you a few considerations, in the hope that you may be induced to interpose your good offices on their behalf; if, in the exercise of your important duty as rulers and fathers in the Church, you should deem it compatible with that duty to advise your venerated and esteemed brother in the ministry, to remain as the guardian of this outpost of the Church—an outpost so perilled and beset by the withering influences of worldliness and infidelity, that there is strong reason to fear that a watchman of ordinary abilities—of ordinary vigilance—would but lift his voice in vain to prevent the dismemberment of the little flock, which for nine years, he has, by the blessing of God, been enabled to keep together.

It is not for themselves alone, that your Memorialists feel on this deeply interesting and solemn occasion. Many of them have rising families to whom it is of vital importance that in the progress of their intellectual and spiritual improvement, no interval of idleness or seductive relaxation from salutary discipline should be allowed. Independently altogether of the difficulty of adequately supplying the place of their present pastor at some future time, your Memorialists most deeply feel the danger to the well-being of their families, and that of many young men not under parental guardianship, who are now members of the Church—yea, even to the preservation of that Church itself in this place—which would arise from an uncertain and desultory administration of the ordinances of religion, consequent on a vacancy in the office of the ministry.

Your Memorialists would respectfully suggest that there is no comparison between the relative claims of the rival congregations in this case. In Scotland there are very many worthy and able ministers from among whom the Glasgow congregation may select one to be their guide and counsellor in spiritual things. With your Memorialists, it is far otherwise. Here the harvest is abundant and the labourers are few. Besides, it is not piety, worth and talent alone, that would render a minister acceptable and useful to a congregation so peculiarly situated as this is. A stranger, however highly gifted in these respects, would still labour under many disadvantages, which years of experience alone could remove. Your Memorialists deem that a minister would be beset with many more difficulties in accommodating himself to the established habits and associations of a congregation already formed, than in forming a new congregation; and they again repeat their solemn conviction, that the removal of their present minister at this inauspicious time would be, humanly speaking, a heavy, if not a fatal blow to the existence of the Church of Scotland in Niagara.

Your Memorialists need not remind you, Reverend