

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Monthly Record.

TO MY WIFE.

Thou first and fairest gift of heaven,
The pearl and prize of life to me,
All blessings which to earth are given
Are treasured up, my wife, in thee!

O perfect flower of womanhood—
In thee all virtues bear a part—
Serene resolve, and fortitude,
And gentle wisdom of the heart;

And understanding strong and keen,
To scan with steady gaze the truth,
Thro' all the mazy mists, which screen
Her features from the eye of youth;

And meekness of the heavenly dove
Which turns to good the world's harsh wrongs,
And quenches, with the breath of love,
The fiery darts of envious tongues.

A healthy soul most fresh and sweet
Round which no sickly fancies twine,
Whose natural pulses grandly beat
In measure with the law divine.

Whose simple faith o'er rough and smooth
Doth lead thee straight the heavenly road,
Encompassing firm the soul of truth
And leaning on the heart of God.

Till thro' thy mortal frame doth flow
Rivers of gladness from above,
Making thy life's pure course below
One grateful gush of perfect love!

Oh! precious wife, no words can speak
Thy priceless worth, in measure due;
And some may say: "The man is weak
"And deems his idle fancies true."

Yet divers tongues her worth proclaim,
And in all hearts her grace has thriven,
Till the sweet fragrance of her name
Is felt abroad like airs from heaven.

And the world's frown, which oft would smite
In forked lightnings, my bare head,
But melts on her in beams of light,
And in her meekness, I am staid.

My wilder pulse, my harder brain
From her a chastening influence win,
And all my notions, mad or vain,
By gentle laws are bridled in.

In goodly grace she stands complete
A queenly soul, from whom doth flow
Some splendour from the glory-seat
Reflected where she treads below.

She has not trod the starry floor
Nor bees where angels prune their wing,
But she of heaven hath taught me more
Than preachers know, or poets sing.

At peace with heaven, at peace with earth,
Her spirit knows no fretful fear,
But spreads its snowy blossoms forth
And makes perpetual spring-time here.

And hand in hand with her I hold
The homeward way, and see, before,
The lengthening shadows dip in gold,
And angels waiting at the door.

The life we bear, tho' linked to place
Hath breathings wonderful and strange,
And all the circling realms of space
Do seem too narrow for its range.

This love, dear soul, shall never die—
These earthly shells must drop away,
And, hid in dusty darkness, lie,
Till clay hath mouldered back to clay;

But this high love shall prosper well
And spread its wings with new delight,
Above the dark and ruined cell
Where it was slowly fledged for flight!

East River, Pictou, August 1868.

SIGMA.

—O—

We have to acknowledge receipt of an interesting sketch of our Foreign Mission Scheme from the pen of the Convener, and an article from Rev. Mr. Pollok, both of which are crowded out by Minutes of Synod.

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Col. Com's Expenditure on Nova Scotia.

For the benefit of those interested we give the Colonial Committee's expenditure on Nova Scotia separately, viz:—

"Expenditure during the year ending 16th April, 1868."

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

	L.	S.	Ds
River John	-	-	32 0 0
Barney's River	-	-	42 0 0
Albion Mines	-	-	45 0 0
McLennan's Mountain	-	-	30 0 0
Wallace and Pugwash	-	-	23 8 0
Rev. Mr. Brodie	-	-	150 0 0
Rev. Mr. Fraser	-	-	79 0 0

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

Truro	-	-	31 2 6
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£432 10 6

Total expended in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton £432 10 6.

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SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

1868 HOME MISSION.
Aug 11, From Belfast congregation £3 18 4

SYNOD FUND.
Aug. 11, From Belfast congregation 1 18 2

YOUNG MENS SCHEME.
Aug 31, From St Andrew's Ch Pictou 4 3 0
RODERICK MCKENZIE,
Pictou, Aug 31st, 1869. Treasurer.

1868. FOREIGN MISSION.
July 11, Rec. from Hon. John. Robertson
Treasurer, New Brunswick, Foreign
Mission Fund \$41.76
July 21, Rec. collection St. John's Church,
Dalhousie, per Rev. G. M. Grant 18.26

\$50.00

JAS. J. BREMNER.
Halifax July 29, 1860. Treasurer.

PRESBYTERY CLERK'S FEES.
Rec. from St. John's Kirk Session
Albion Mines \$4.00