

At the close of the service I requested the male members of the audience to remain behind, as I wished to converse with them regarding their own position, to advise them as to their movements, and give them any information regarding the general schemes and interests of our Church, which might closely affect them. It is unnecessary to particularize all that took place. The people who met me on that occasion were evidently intent on exerting themselves to the utmost for the acquisition of property, the erection of a suitable edifice, and the establishment of a congregation and church in our connection at Paisley, and they were as desirous to have the benefit of a friendly interest and judicious suggestions from without. They referred, in terms alike creditable to both parties, to the interest and attention which had been shown toward them by the ministers of Hamilton and Fergus, who had visited during the preceding winter, and counselled, encouraged and aided them to the utmost; and, while they took my visit as a new evidence of the interest felt in their position, and the sympathies felt with their desires and struggles, they modestly expressed the hope that the Presbytery might be able to continue their care over them. At the same time they promised to respond to the action of the Presbytery in their matters from time to time, as might be required. At an advanced hour of the evening I parted company with the last of these warm adherents of our Church, having repeatedly promised to use my influence on their behalf with the Presbytery of Hamilton and in other quarters. Although this was a laborious day, yet it was pleasant to look back upon, and some of its scenes seemed fitted to encourage our people, and establish more strongly the position of our Church in that locality, and, in the thought of so much real pleasure and ground for hope, I would not have recalled the labor, and excessive fatigue, which had been endured. To mind and body, however, repose was greatly needed, and grateful did it come, when opportunity offered.

Although interrupting my narrative, I may here state that at my urgent representations and demands a member of Presbytery was sent to dispense the communion to our people, spending two Sabbaths among them, and preparing the way for the labors of a catechist, sent out in his company, and left behind him on this promising field. The visit of both was as pleasant to themselves as it was acceptable to the people, and they brought back tidings of the zeal and exertions of our friends in that locality, which are in the highest degree encouraging. The writer has received a communication recently from one of our most active friends, informing him of the sustained interest and efforts of our people, of their proceedings in the organization of a com-

mittee, and all the ordinary machinery of our congregations for the management of their temporalities, stating the steps which they have taken towards acquiring a building site for church and manse, and breathing an earnest, hopeful spirit. At a recent meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton, missionary supply for six weeks, beginning with 1st July, was ordered for Paisley and vicinity, and it is to be hoped that this provision may be valued and profitable. There is no new station within the bounds of our Presbytery so full of promise, and therefore so worthy of judicious and faithful attention as this one, situated in the heart of a most fertile country, possessed of almost unrivaled manufacturing advantages, and settled by a superior class of men, as attached to their Church as they are generous in their natural disposition and fitted for success in agricultural and manufacturing industry. God send an earnest laborer to work in this promising field.

(To be continued.)

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN SCOTLAND.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—

I have great pleasure in agreeing to the proposal made to become the *Correspondent in Scotland for the Presbyterian*, and I hope to be able to send you regularly a monthly letter, giving some account of the state of matters, and particularly of Church matters, at Home.

The whole country is now agitated with preparations for the political elections which are to come off in a few days; and in Scotland at least there are probably more political adventurers in the field, and a greater recklessness in taking pledges than in any former contest. Some of the candidates are not particularly versed either in political or general knowledge, as may be gathered from the fact of one of them, in reply to a question from an elector, stating that he would be most happy to support any measure for the amendment of the Decalogue. The quiet town where I reside is the scene of a very exciting contest, a conservative candidate of great ability having unexpectedly come forward and undertaken in the space of a very few days to revolutionize the sentiments of a most radical constituency. When asked if he will vote for an extension of the suffrage, he tells them, No, but that he will do his best to get them a good coat to their backs, and a good dinner, to provide education for their children, and to increase the facilities of emigration; and this mode of tactics has taken uncommonly well. The general opinion is, that Lord Palmerston will come in with a very large majority, as the country is decidedly in favour of backing-up our officials in China, though many men of high merits and great conscientiousness, belonging to all parties, take a different view. The Church is interested in the elections more or less,

as the question of Education, and of her Parish Schools, will no doubt be brought up during the reign of the coming Parliament; but I do not think there is much likelihood of any change that will be greatly injurious to her interests. Religious education, and the oversight of the Presbyteries, will certainly be retained; and, if the schools should be thrown open to teachers of other Presbyterian denominations, I am one of those who do not think that this would do much harm to the Church, as it would settle the question, and be in most cases a dead letter, few of the heritors of Scotland having any sympathy with dissent. At the same time I am quite of opinion that many of the agitators are actuated rather by the desire to gain a victory over the Church than by the pure love of the education of the masses; for all their efforts are turned towards the unchurching of the country schools, where it is admitted on all hands that there is little or no deficiency in the means of education, while they pass by the burghs and large towns, where destitution really exists, and where the Church would offer no opposition to the extension of schools on a liberal basis.

The question of higher education is beginning more and more to attract the attention of the country, and this is a subject upon which all enlightened men may cordially unite. During the past winter I think something like eight or ten lectures have been published by Professors in our different Universities upon Scottish University Reform, in all of which several important changes from the present system have been advocated, such as these: that the power and privileges of graduates should be enlarged—that the tutorial system should be introduced in connection with the different faculties, and well paid tutorships instituted as objects of ambition to successful students,—that the vacations should be shortened, and the Universities be represented in Parliament. I sincerely hope that this movement will attract more and more attention, and that our wealthy merchants will come forward handsomely and support it by endowing fellowships and additional chairs; as there can be no doubt that the prizes for higher learning, and the opportunities for pursuing it, are far too few in Scotland, and that the Universities have not at all kept pace with the growth of other interests. I see that Glasgow and Edinburgh Colleges are already making arrangements for throwing open their magnificent libraries, on certain conditions, to their graduates; and this is a step in the right direction, as it will be a great boon to many clergymen throughout the country, and will tend to raise the standard of education, by leading more students to aspire after University degrees.

And, now to come to strictly Church matters, I believe that this year all the Schemes are prosperous and flourishing. You know something of the great change