

opened on Sabbath 7th April last; that besides previous liberal contributions of the colonists towards its erection, the collection on that day amounted to £106. There is not only ample scope, but great need in the city and district, for additional Free Church ministers. Mr. Pantou is indeed very urgent, not only for more ministers, but especially for teachers. The Romish Church has already planted schools there; and, for want of others, some Protestant and Presbyterian parents had been induced to send their children to them. Mr. Pantou has obtained the promise of sites for two schools, and though one teacher has already been obtained, yet other two, if zealous and well-qualified, would not only receive ample encouragement, but would also find a peculiarly interesting field of labour.

NELSON.

At NELSON, an important and increasing town at the north end of the Middle Island, the Rev. Mr. Nicholson has been minister since March 1848. The foundation stone of the church, (the only stone in the whole building, the superstructure being of wood), was laid on 22nd February 1849, and the fabric is, we doubt not, finished long ago.—In proof of the willingness of the people, it is worth stating that the entire number of Scotch Presbyterians in the settlement is 313, and the contributions for the building amounted to £314, being fully at the rate of £1 for each individual, young and old.—In a letter dated 9th Nov. 1849, Mr. Nicholson gives the following account of his position and of his labours.

"Since my arrival here, I have found an open door—an anxious desire to hear the Word—and invariably, amongst the Scotch settlers, a strong attachment to the Church of our forefathers, with its simple yet affecting forms of worship. I have often seen in this foreign land the songs of our Zion sung with tears. 'They wept when they remembered Zion.' The building and completing of our church, it is estimated, will cost £700. Our people, I may say truly, have subscribed liberally towards the Building Fund; and, to use the language of the apostle, 'that to their power, yea, and beyond their power, they are willing of themselves in this matter.' But in the way of completing the building clear of debt (and debt is a serious matter in a colony with interest at the rate of ten per cent.), and of raising a suitable provision for a minister for the next three years, it is too apparent that, without assistance from home, their utmost exertions will fall short, very far short.

"Let me also say, no people could be more grateful for the home assistance received and receiving; and even now the proposition has been made to prepare a *donation* on behalf of the Colonial Scheme of the Free Church.

"Only lately this fair land was covered with the mists of heathen darkness, and was

the scene of horrid cruelties; but now the wilderness and the solitary place are glad, and the desert is beginning to blossom in the beauties of holiness. The cry, 'Come over and help us' was raised, and that cry was answered. Religious instructors came from afar—they came to the help of the Lord against the mighty.' It cannot be that this lovely island, which smiles so sweet far away amid the melancholy main, was created for nothing beyond being the plaything of the mighty ocean. It was created for the use of man—a field for the flock of Christ, and it is the command of God to go out and inhabit it. By the help of God, the seeds of Christian truth are now being sown in this infant colony; and the benefits of that sowing will be reaped by the waiting labourers of the lovely isles of the vast Pacific, and by the parent country herself perhaps many ages after.

"I preach twice every Sabbath, and every alternate Sabbath three times. I have also week-day preachings. One Sabbath in every four I preach at Nelson in the morning at eleven; ride eight miles, and preach a second time at three; mount again, ride six or seven miles, and preach a third time at half-past six. On this journey I have sometimes very bad roads, and two rivers to cross. One Sabbath in every four I preach at Nelson in the morning; ride ten miles; preach at three; return to Nelson for evening sermon. A prayer-meeting and Bible-class every Thursday evening in Nelson. O for the refreshing showers of Divine grace! so that the vineyard of the Lord here may be abundantly watered; and may the Lord not only revive and quicken us, but also *His inheritance* wherever it is weary! Give thy Church, O Lord! like the days of old, seasons of glorious sunshine from the presence."

WELLINGTON.

At WELLINGTON, a town of great commercial importance in the south end of North Island, a minister of the Church of Scotland was stationed so early as the beginning of 1840. About the time of the Disruption the congregation became vacant. Although the Free Church has been unable hitherto to supply them with a minister, the Rev. Mr. Inglis, a respected missionary from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, whose labours among the natives had been interrupted by local disturbances, officiated amongst them, with the concurrence of the Colonial Committee, till last spring. His church had by this time resolved that he should return to the missionary labour for which he was originally destined. In consequence of this, the people fully expected that a minister from the Free Church would be immediately sent out to supply his place. The disappointment which they have experienced, as mail after mail has arrived without any tidings of a spiritual instructor, has not been relieved, in the case of the great bulk of