

upon their worthy pastor and presented him with a handsome pulpit gown as a mark of their esteem, and appreciation of his ministrations among them. The Rev. Mr. Spratt has been assiduous among his flock on these eastern shores for upwards of 33 years, and the presentation evinces the high estimation in which his ability and faithfulness as a minister are held by his people.—*Com. to Eastern Chronicle.*

St. Andrew's Church Female Benevolent Society.

On the evening of Sabbath the 25th ult. a very able and appropriate Sermon was preached in St. Andrew's Church by the Rev. George W. Spratt, to a large and attentive congregation, when a collection was made, amounting to £8 3s. 6d. in aid of the funds of the Female Benevolent Society connected with that congregation.

Victoria Settlement.

We have always much pleasure in communicating to our readers, such information as we receive from time to time, respecting the condition and prospects of the church in the interior of the country. The well-wishers of our beloved Zion will be glad to learn that, on the 14th of last month, the above interesting settlement, distant from Pugwash about twelve miles, received a visit from the Rev. George Harper, our active Missionary, who is now supplying the vacancy there and at Wallace. Like many other settlements in our flourishing colony, that of Victoria has sprung up within the last few years; and, possessing a fertile soil, and other natural advantages, it promises much for the future. By the union of industry and intelligence—the best of all capital in a new country like ours; many hundreds of acres have been reclaimed from a state of nature; and what was only lately the pathless forest, where the wild beast sported in savage independence, has now become the smiling abode of man. But like too many of the more remote Country districts, it is but seldom that the settlers enjoy the unspeakable privilege of having the Gospel proclaimed to them. Rarely does a minister of Christ find his way to this secluded out-post of our church. With only one or two exceptions, the settlers are all faithful adherents of the Church of Scotland, and through good report, and evil have proved their attachment to the Church of their fathers; like many others of her friends we freely own their patience has been long tried; but a brighter day we trust is now dawning on them as well as on others in their desolate condition. By the appointment of a minister to Wallace and Pugwash, which we have every reason to believe will take place at no distant period, they will be again gathered into the fold, and be no longer as sheep scattered in the wilderness without a shepherd.

Though the weather was very unpropitious, between thirty and forty people assembled in the school-house at the hour appointed for Divine Service, and both old and young seemed to be much impressed with the solemnity of the occasion. Mr. Harper intimated his intention of again preaching in the same place on that day; month, the 11th of April current, when we trust that with improved weather, the attendance will be still more numerous.

During his stay in the settlement, Mr. Harper enjoyed the opportunity of visiting and examining the School established in the district which is at present taught by Mr. Robert Barclay, a native of Pictou. The scholars are almost all the children of our adherents, and appeared to be making very good progress under their industrious Teacher. Mr. Barclay seems to spare no pains to secure the progress of his pupils who acquitted themselves very well at the examination. In particular they seemed to have been well instructed in our shorter Catechism—that most excellent summary of divine truth—so well fitted to edify and confirm the youthful Christian.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Parochial Schools.

THE "Schools Bill (Scotland)," lately introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Stirling, the member for Perthshire, has been fixed for a second reading on the 28th March. It is precisely the same measure which the Lord Rossie (Kinnaird), presented to the House of Lords some time ago, and is intended to provide, in a more adequate manner than has yet been done, for the services of that most valuable and meritorious class of public servants, the Parish School-masters of Scotland; and also to facilitate the removal from their offices of superannuated, immoral, or negligent teachers. It is a bill which, so far as it goes, cannot, we think, fail to be regarded with great satisfaction by the Church, as main- taining the relation between education and religion,—school and Church,—for which she has hitherto so stoutly contended; and giving to the Christian people of Scotland, a renewed legislative assurance, under the tests and securities now existing, that, within the schools of the State, their children shall be entrusted to pious orthodox and Protestant teachers, who are themselves in the communion, and subject to the superintending authority of the Church of the State; in this manner affirming the doctrine that, so far as religious instruction is concerned, the school is "part and parcel of the Church."

Mr. Stirling, we observe, has delayed examining his bill until the Lord Advocate is in his place,—when, of course, it will be seen whether the Government are prepared to give it their support, or to propose embracing a wider field of educational legislation for Scotland than is taken under the present measure, which appears to be limited to *landward parishes*. So far as the bill before us retains the parish schoolmasters in their relation to the parish minister and Presbyteries of the Church, it will not fail, we think, to be acceptable to them. How far they may approve of its provisions for a better maintenance and a more

efficient jurisdiction than are now afforded, remains to be seen. If the principle of the bill is approved of, the details may be amended when it goes into committee. Its reception by the Free Church, and other dissenting bodies, cannot long remain doubtful, as it will soon be brought before their several Presbyteries.

Presbyterian Chaplains in the East.

The following is an extract from a letter from one of the chaplains of the Church of Scotland, dated

"Hospital of Scutari, 2d Feb.

"You will wonder, perhaps, at learning from this note that I am stationed at Scutari, instead of being with our troops in the field, as I had expected to be long before this time, when I left Edinburgh. But I am sure you will approve of the course which I have taken, when I tell you my reasons.

"When I came out here, I found that never, from the opening of this hospital, had any Presbyterian clergyman been stationed here, although hundreds of our brave countrymen had been languishing on beds of sickness, and dying. This, I felt, was not as it should be; for, although the English chaplains might do their duty as faithfully by them as by others, I felt assured that it would be a far greater comfort to our poor fellows, and would even make a deeper impression upon their minds, if they were dealt with by one of their own Scotch ministers—one who could understand their feelings—to whom their tongue was not strange—and so, accordingly, having no one to say to me yea or nay, I determined to remain, where, to the best of my judgment, the calls of duty were the loudest and most urgent. And experience has proved that I was not mistaken in my supposition.

"It has been very affecting, the hearty welcome which I have, in general, received from our suffering countrymen, and the unbounded gratitude which they have expressed for my ministrations. More than once has it been said to me, 'Ah, Sir, I am quite contented now; I have got everything that I want, when I have got one of our own ministers to come and speak to me, and pray with me.' It is, indeed, very encouraging to meet with men who give such testimony of confidence and affection, as I feel that this, humanly speaking, is calculated to carry home such counsels and admonitions as I may give, with visit.

"There is one thing which weighs more and more upon me every day in my ministrations, and that is the deep necessity of having another chaplain sent out from the Church of Scotland to labour amongst the sick in and around Scutari. As far as I can learn there are at present in the several hospitals here—seven of them—no less than seven thousand men. Of these a very considerable portion are Scotchmen and Presbyterians. I need not say how utterly impossible it is for me to attend to all, or even a very large proportion of these, scattered as they are over miles of corridor, and in hospitals at considerable distances from each other. In the largest hospital alone there are, I am assured, three miles and a half of beds, and I am satisfied that it is no exaggeration; and it does seem very hard (and our brave soldiers, I know, feel it so) that our noble countrymen who have ever been the first to roll back the tide of battle should be so far overlooked, that here, in a strange land,