

### FOUNDATION STONE OF A NEW CHURCH LAID AT DALHOUSIE MILLS.

Mr. Editor,—

As I am persuaded that not a few of the readers of the *Record* read with deep interest the communications which from time to time appear therein, relative to the progress and extension of our beloved Zion, I make no apology for requesting a small corner in your valuable publication, for the purpose of communicating a short account of the progress of our cause in this locality.

Dalhousie Mills is the name of a small village at the rear of the Township of Lancaster, Glengarry, almost on the boundary line between Upper and Lower Canada. The district around the village is very fertile, and mostly all occupied by old settlers, many of whom are in very good outward circumstances. Almost all the inhabitants use the Gaelic language in their houses; and it may be safely said that this language holds its ground among the people as firmly as ever. A large portion of the inhabitants are, as we call them, "Highland Roman Catholics;" another part is connected with the "Church of Scotland in Canada;" and our own Church has had a few faithful witnesses in this locality since the disruption in Canada who have never yet in a single instance betrayed her principles.

In the year 1852, only seven names were on the Communion Roll of our Church in this place. This was but a small flock; but the few that composed this flock were of the right kind. They had the Redeemer's cause at heart, and were always united in their endeavours to advance it.

In this state of their infancy they resolved to erect a place of worship, which by a large sacrifice on their part, was soon ready for use. But, though now, they had a Church of their own, yet, they had none, for a season or two, to tell them the story of a Crucified Redeemer. A sermon or two, in the three months, was all they could expect from our Church, unless they would, as they often did, travel fifteen or twenty miles to hear one of our missionaries preach. Kind Providence, however, soon favoured them. The Lord heard their cry, and exceeded even their expectation; for, in the summer of the year 1853, they found themselves united to another preaching station of our Church, at the front of Lancaster, and enjoying the regular services of a Student of Knox College, who, in the course of Providence, was settled over them as their pastor.

Just, Mr. Editor, when this little flock—for we must still call it "little," though its communion roll has been swelled up from seven, to sixty names—was getting out of temporal difficulties; when their last subscriptions were about to be paid for manse and globe which they have, in conjunction with the other congregation at Lancaster, procured for their pastor, it pleased the Lord, in his wise and mysterious Providence, to hurl them in one single hour into fresh and unforeseen difficulties. On the 25th day of last May, fire from the woods, which threatened to burn the whole village, consumed their church to ashes, which was comfortably finished inside little more than a year ago. It was, indeed, painful and most affecting to view the walls of Zion "broken down, and the gates thereof consumed with fire," which some regarded as the place of their spiritual birth, and with which so many sweet and pleasant associations were connected.

After this painful event occurred, the congregation met in the open field, where they still meet to worship, for humiliation, prayer and confession of sin. At this meeting one thing sustained the minds of the people. It was this. They felt that they had fallen, not into the hands of men, but into the hands of

God. Their church, on which they had spent so much of their hard earnings, was not wrenched from them, as has been the case, once and again, with some of their brethren in this land, by parties who might desire themselves to have a *leah*, if not a *nora* title to it; but it was taken from them by the Lord Himself, who reigns in Zion, and who has chosen it as His habitation. At the close of the meeting it was unanimously resolved to endeavour to erect a brick church, for which a subscription list was at once opened. The liberality and good feeling manifested on that occasion are worthy of being recorded.

It being felt that the site of the former church was not suitable, one of the congregation, whose liberality has frequently been experienced by the congregation, came forward and offered a *free site* on any part of his land, which embraces the most of the village. A beautiful hill, a few acres from the village, was suggested as being a very suitable place for the new church, which was, at once, granted. The same individual, having taken hold of the subscription list lying before him, subscribed his name with a large sum, one-half of which he laid down on the table with his name. Another individual, though not so able as the first, yet with a heart equally as large, followed, saying: "I have no money, but I have cattle, and will sell them." He also subscribed a very handsome sum. Another and another followed, until the names of all present were on the subscription list, with sums honorable both to themselves and to the cause with which they are connected. The meeting was then concluded, and the people returned home with hearts full of joy and thankfulness to God for what they were permitted to see.

And now—Mr. Editor—to conclude my remarks, which I fear are too lengthy, I would only add that on the 25th of August last the foundation stone of this new church was laid by the pastor of the congregation, after exercises suitable for the occasion, and in the presence of a number of the congregation, and others, who came to witness the ceremony. It is expected that the church will be closed in before the cold season sets in; for this interesting little flock has been regularly assembling for worship in the open air, and since their church was consumed to the present day—to the praise of God let it be recorded—not one drop of rain disturbed them at their worship, though the past season has been unusually wet.

J. A.

### SABBATH SCHOOL.—BRADFORD.

On Thursday last, I was invited to attend a Pic-Nic in favour of the Sabbath School in connection with our Church in Bradford. It was held in a beautiful grove in the rear of village. The Bradford Brass Band was in attendance to vary the enjoyment by discoursing sweet music. There were abundance of speakers in attendance to address the young, viz.—Rev. Mr. Fraser, U. P., Revs. Messrs. Elworth, Hunter, and Parker, W. M., Rev. Mr. Hayworth. I will not enlarge any further upon this part of my letter, only to state the day proved favourable and every thing passed off agreeably.

I subjoin the Report as handed to me by the Superintendent, Mr. Peter Goodfellow.

"The attendance (he writes) this year, is in considerable advance of any previous year.

"Last year, ending January 1st, 1857, there were 53 scholars in the school, while the average attendance was 35. But since the 1st of March, the school has increased to 153, with an average attendance of 72. This large increase is owing to a visiting committee being appointed, whose duty was to visit the parents of those whose children attended no Sabbath

School, but were allowed to roam at large on that sacred day, and others left exposed to all manner of crime and wickedness. The result proved highly satisfactory. Numbers were induced to attend who were otherwise beyond the means of religious instruction. The average attendance of teachers for the past year ending January 8, were 8. This year 18 have been engaged in the school—some of these having left the village, there remains a staff of 12. Very valuable assistance has been rendered the school by an aged friend, Mr. James Drury, who has continued with the greatest regularity and the most untiring zeal to devote his energies to the instruction of the Bible-class.

The expenditure for the past year has been considerable. The library we had on hand and which we have parted with to another school, was an old one; and it was thought advisable to procure a new one. Cards were accordingly distributed to the children to collect the necessary funds. In this way there were raised \$27. The new library cost \$29 and was immediately purchased. Other expenses were incurred in purchasing Bibles, Testaments, Prize-books, and other necessaries for the school amounting to about \$30; this the teachers paid from their own resources.— Besides the Library and "Children's Paper" of which one copy is given into each family, a Missionary Record is distributed, and efforts otherwise made to make known to the children the wants of the heathen; and to keep them alive to the importance of the missionary work. There is a missionary box belonging to the school, into this it is expected that every scholar drops a penny or more on the first Sabbath of each month. From this resource \$64 were appropriated in June last, towards sending the gospel to India; and a sum considerable in advance of this has been contributed this present year."

### THE LATE ALEXANDER GAIR.

On the occasion of the death of this worthy and Christian man, we gave a memoir of his life and of his earnest and fruitful labors among the Highland population of this and the neighbouring County. In that notice we mentioned the general esteem which he was held by those with whom he came in contact, and the warm appreciation of his meritorious efforts for the welfare of those among whom he ministered. His neighbors and admirers anxious to testify their respects for the deceased, have determined to erect a monument over his grave in the church yard of Latheron; and there is now erected in that burying ground, a plain substantial square grave stone with the following inscription tastefully engraved by Mr. Francis Henderson, of this place, who, in his department of monumental engraving, will equal any of the craft in the North:—

"Here lie the bodies of Alexander Gair, late Farmer of Aldandhu, and of Lucy Gordon his wife, who died in January, 1854, aged 74 years; and of Christina, their eldest daughter, who died in 1833, in the 33rd year of her age. Alexander Gair was born at Mornage near Tain, in 1772. He removed to Sutherland in 1796; married in 1799; came to Caithness in 1817, and departed from this life on the 18th of July, 1854, aged 82. Blessed with a commanding aspect, great mental force and ardour, richness of imagination, insight into character, and readiness of speech in the Gaelic tongue; and having had from his youth much christian experience, he dedicated his endowments to Christ, and was instant in season and out of season in teaching, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting in the service of his Saviour. For nearly thirty years he laboured among the Highlanders at Wick, during the time of the