

ensuing general assembly. This appears to be the only method of affording immediate relief to a number of stations which have been too long neglected, and we are inclined to believe that an earnest application from our Synod for the appointment of such a deputation would meet with an immediate and favourable reply, whilst the members would have the inward consciousness, that they have endeavoured to discharge their duty to their church and to their God.

The Revd. Robert McNair, A. M., late of Gourrock, Scotland, and previously minister of St. James, Charlottetown, P. E. I., has been appointed one of the Scotch Chaplains to the army, and by latest intelligence from Scotland had demitted his charge, and had left for the hospital at Scutari, the appointed scene of his labours. Mr. McNair is well known and highly esteemed in these colonies where he sojourned for nearly three years, and now that he has embarked on this new and interesting mission, we doubt not that the prayers and best wishes of many of his old friends will go with him. From his Missionary zeal, his experience, his winning manner—and his great aptitude in suiting himself to circumstances—he is singularly qualified for the post which he now occupies, and we sincerely trust that under the blessing of God, he may be the means of leading many a sick and wounded soldier to a knowledge of the Saviour, and of shedding comfort into many a sorrowful heart.

Mr. McNair's letters to the Home Record, during his labours here were read with great interest. And we hope ere long to have an opportunity of perusing some of his communications from Scutari, which we will gladly transfer to the pages of this periodical. Many of our readers who had before but a general interest in those exposed to the dangers of the war, will now have one personal friend to connect them with the scenes of suffering and contest and to quicken and engage their interest in the eventful movements that have taken place in the East. We beseech their prayers in his behalf, and in behalf of his fellow-labourers among whom we number another very dear friend, that their lives may be spared, and their labours abundantly blessed.

Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia.

This, the highest of our Ecclesiastical Judicatories, met this day, as indicted, for the despatch of business. The place of meeting is St. Matthew's Church in this city. The Rev. Alexander McGillivray, minister of McLennan's Mountain, Pictou County, the Moderator, delivered to an audience composed of the members of Court and a respectable attendance of the laity, an edifying and appropriate discourse from Mark iii. 14, "and he ordained twelve that they should be with him and that he might send them forth to preach." Immediately after Divine Service the Moderator constituted the meeting by prayer and declared the Synod open for the despatch of business. The Clerk, the Rev. W. Snodgrass, produced the roll of ministers, being members of Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, which having been called and the Elders present having produced

their commissions from their respective sessions, the following took their places as members of court, viz. Rev. A. McGillivray, Rev. A. W. Herdman, Rev. A. Pollok, Rev. A. McLean, Rev. A. McKay, Rev. W. Snodgrass, Rev. J. Martin, Rev. J. Scott, and Rev. G. W. Spratt; Dr. Avery, Messrs. Little and McKenzie, Elders.

Mr. McGillivray's term of office, as Moderator having expired, the Synod engaged in the election of a successor. The Rev. John Martin of St. Andrew's Church, in this city, was proposed by the Clerk. Several members briefly expressed their approbation and Mr. Martin was unanimously chosen to act as Moderator for the ensuing year. We may find space in our next number for the address delivered by Mr. Martin on taking the chair. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed and tendered by the Moderator, in appropriate terms, to the Rev. Alexander McGillivray, for the urbane and courteous conduct he had uniformly manifested to the members of Synod while occupying the Moderator's chair, and also for the excellent sermon he had this day delivered. Mr. McGillivray suitably replied to this acknowledgment of his services. While going to press the Synod was engaged in the appointment of the usual committees.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Extract Letter.

Rev. George Harper, Missionary, Wallace, Nova Scotia, dated April 1855.

I duly received your letter of 10th February last, enclosing extract Minute of the Colonial Committee, sanctioning the distribution of my labours, in the meantime, as an itinerant missionary between the destitute localities embraced within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Halifax and Pictou. Shortly after I had commenced operations in the extensive and important district which I am now occupying, or towards the middle of February, I addressed a communication to you, containing a full account of what I had been doing since my arrival in this country, in the end of last year. Since the date of my last Report, I have been busily employed in the same district which embraces the villages of Wallace and Pugwash, together with several smaller stations in the more remote parts. Besides preaching twice every sabbath, in one or other of these villages, where we have always a full attendance, I preach at the stations on week-days; endeavouring, at the same time, to visit as many as possible of our adherents at their houses. And I humbly trust that my labours, which, it will thus be seen, are somewhat arduous, are blessed to the spiritual edification and improvement of our people in these destitute localities, which have so long been deprived of the services of a regular pastor. The particulars of my visits to the smaller settlements, I furnish to the *Missionary Record* of our Church in this colony a periodical, conducted by ministers of our Church, which has only lately been started, and which, being already extensively circulated among our people, bids fair to be of very great service to the cause, by bringing prominently into view the real state of our spiritual wants. I need only, therefore, refer you to our organ in the lower colonies, for detailed information regarding the condition and prospects of this district, which is undoubtedly one of the largest and most important in the colony; promising, to all appearance, at no very distant period, to afford

scope for the labours of several missionaries. I would embrace this opportunity of again bringing under the notice of our young probationers and others who may feel disposed to offer their services for the North American Colonies, that, from all that I have seen and heard of the spiritual destitution in this colony, there is yet a most abundant and promising field to be occupied. For my own part, I must confess that I now regret very much I did not sooner adopt the resolution of coming out here; and I firmly believe that there are those among our licentiates at home, who, if they were only made aware how many spheres of usefulness are open for them here, would not hesitate a moment to offer themselves to the Committee. So far as my own experience goes, I can confidently assure them that, notwithstanding many obstacles, the Church of Scotland is rapidly gaining strength in this colony, and only waits for active and devoted missionaries to attach themselves to her cause, to organise her numerous though scattered adherents, and make her here, as at home, a blessing to the community. In her present crippled condition in this province, with only a handful of labourers, it is but too true that she forms an easy prey to the inroads of sectarianism, many hundreds of her supporters being left for years altogether without the enjoyment of her religious ordinances, and thus becoming exposed to the artifices of incompetent teachers. And this state of matters, however much it is to be deplored, must and will continue until we are in a position to occupy all our waste places, and assume an aggressive attitude, and bring back such as had thus been beguiled from the fold of our beloved Zion. May this much longed-for period soon arrive! In the meantime, it is gratifying to know that, amidst numerous difficulties, she is still prospering in Nova Scotia.

As an evidence of what I have now said, in regard to the prospects of probationers in this colony soon obtaining a *fixed charge*, I may mention that, though I have not yet been four months here I have already received a call from the congregations of Wallace and Pugwash, to become their pastor. At a meeting held in Wallace on the 5th inst., they unanimously came to that resolution; and although, as you are aware, I was originally destined for Prince Edward Island, which I was unable to reach at the time I arrived, in consequence of the closing of the navigation, I think this too important a district to be lost sight of, more especially as I have every reason to believe that my refusal to comply with the earnest wishes of the people, after so long a period of destitution, would do incalculable mischief to our cause in this quarter. After due deliberation, and with the cordial and unanimous approbation of my brethren in the ministry, I have therefore agreed to accept the above call. But as the people of Georgetown are anxiously looking for my arrival on the Island in Spring, I think I shall be able, notwithstanding this arrangement, to spend a month or two in visiting them, when I shall endeavour to collect information as to their state, and forward the same to the Committee. At least, it is my own earnest wish to visit them before summer; by which time, it is much to be hoped, there may be more labourers in the field.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—We have much pleasure in stating that the Rev. R. W. Fraser of St. John's Edinburgh, author of the recently published work on Turkish history,