

attended the Hebrew also along with them this winter. From not having been previously enrolled he has had no discourses prescribed, but he was regularly examined in Theology and Hebrew, and acquitted himself very creditably; and his conduct, so far as known to me, has been in accordance with his Christian profession." Mr Lyall says, "Mr George N. Gordon attended the class for Moral Philosophy during the session 1858-1, — was distinguished for diligence in all the duties of the class, and gave evidence of great intelligence in the subjects of study, and of habits, at once painstaking and conscientious." In addition to these certificates of character and standing, it is of much consequence to refer to the report of a Committee, appointed by the Pby. of Halifax, under whose inspection Mr Gordon has been placed. This committee received, as Presbyterial exercises from Mr Gordon, a popular sermon, and an examination on Church History, Greek and Hebrew. "The discourse exhibited (says the report) evidence of diligence and of mind. In theology it was sound; in illustration, appropriate and practical; and in style, scriptural and generally accurate, frequently figurative and striking. Mr Gordon gives promise of becoming a useful and acceptable preacher of the Gospel." "Altogether the committee have much pleasure in stating to the Pby. that the exercises as a whole, were such as to warrant the Pby. in cordially encouraging Mr Gordon in the prosecution of his studies." With such ample and varied testimony of so favorable a character, it cannot be thought that the encouragement which your Board have extended to Mr Gordon, is either unwarranted or injudicious. It may be well however, to state the precise position in which he now stands. For this purpose, a few extracts from their minutes and correspondence may be found satisfactory.

July 1st, 1858. Heard Mr Gordon, as a candidate for the vacancy at Anticum. — Gave an account of his past studies and of the motives which have actuated him in preferring his claims. Agreed, that under

present circumstances the application be favorably received, with the distinct understanding that proper testimonials be procured by him to be laid before the Board, and that he place himself under their direction, to prosecute his studies."

September 1st, 1858. Read certificates in favor of Mr Gordon, from P. E. Island and Halifax, comprising two from the elders of Cascumpec congregation, P. E. I., (under date September 1852,) who were familiar with his early life; and one from Mr Cundell, secretary to the P. E. I. Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in whose service Mr Gordon had been employed as travelling Agent, for the six months ending November 1850. Also from Professors King and Lyall, of the Free Church College Halifax, whose classes he had attended for several sessions. A medical certificate from Dr Parker was farther presented, attesting the adaptation of Gordon's constitution for missionary service in the South Sea Islands. All these certificates were found to be highly satisfactory. Read a letter from Mr Gordon in connection with these testimonials, and as he was present, an opportunity was afforded to him for any additional remark he might think proper to make. Agreed that Dr Kier, as a member of the Board be authorised to introduce him to the present Session of the Hall, in order that he may receive the full benefit of all the classes."

At a meeting of your Board held at Truro during the late meeting of Synod, an application was read from Mr Gordon, desiring information as to his precise position, and their opinion as to the course of study he was then prosecuting at Halifax. It was agreed to invite the Brethren then assembled to a free conference, in order to prepare a more satisfactory answer. The conference was in due course obtained, and after full deliberation, the Secretary was instructed to reply, that the manner in which Mr Gordon has disposed of his time for study and personal improvement, has given very general satisfaction and that his present standing is quite similar to any one of