

time of their days, and while devotedly engaged in their Master's work. The deep sorrow felt by their respective congregations on account of their bereavement, testified the high estimation in which they were held as their pastors, and ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Durie had filled his pastoral charge in Bytown for a period somewhat less than a year: yet he had won the affectionate confidence of his people by his edifying ministrations, and the meekness of wisdom by which all his pastoral intercourse was characterized. While, in the fearless discharge of his duty, he carried the consolations of religion to some Irish Presbyterian emigrants, infected with that epidemic which has carried off so many of them, he fell a victim to the same disease; and again is our church in Bytown, second to none in Canada West for its numbers and respectability, left without a pastor. The field of the late Mr. Lambie's missionary labours was very wide,—extending, we believe, over several townships; yet the frequency and regularity with which he visited his scattered flock, were most exemplary: and what strength of principle and laborious efforts this requires, can be known only to those who have had experience of our Canadian roads every where, and especially in new settlements. In addition to his pastoral duties, he was always ready to execute a full share of that business which devolved upon him as a member of our ecclesiastical courts. His talent for business was excellent, his counsel judicious, and his deportment temperate and unassuming. The removal of these ministers, so unexpectedly, and at a time when so much difficulty is experienced in filling up vacancies, is a severe visitation to our Colonial Church. What can we do but bow in humble submission before Him who hath done it, no doubt, for some gracious end.—that we may be taught more implicitly to rely upon Him, who is the Dispenser of life to those who are already in the vineyard, and who can raise up others to succeed them when they are called to their reward?

The *second* Deputation from the Parent Church is an event, which, in the review of the past year, calls for our grateful acknowledgement, as an evidence of that enlightened and Christian affection with which she continues to follow her children, who have sought for homes on this continent. The entire spirit with which the reverend deputies fulfilled their mission, has left behind very agreeable remembrances. The kindness and urbanity of their personal intercourse, was exceeded only by the evangelical fervour of their public ministrations. They indulged, as all who heard them will bear witness, in no railing accusations,—in no points of wit, or ridiculous stories that might excite a smile and tell against an adversary,—in no sophistical representation of party questions,—in no

charges against motive and character, founded on *their own views* of the principles and proceedings of others who thought differently from themselves. When touching upon the ecclesiastical questions recently controverted,—for they touched rather than dwelt upon them, the whole strain of their observations was both charitable and dignified. They freely admitted, and even with a eulogium, the high talent of many of those Ministers who had separated from the Church, and the purity of motive by which they might have been actuated; while they claimed for themselves a purity of motive as sincere, and also, as was to be expected from them, a more accurate discrimination of the moral obligations of the Church, in reference to the existing laws of its establishment. In regard to the evils entailed upon the Church in Canada, the views expressed by them were substantially those contained in the conclusion of the Report of the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly for 1846;* the judiciousness of which will scarcely be disputed, at least by the wiser part even of those who may have reached a very different conclusion respecting the merits of the controversy in Scotland. It is, however, with their mission to us as Ministers of Christ, that our most pleasing recollections are associated; and the deep impression made by their pulpit ministrations excited the regret of all, that their stay in any one place was so short. When the Church shall resolve to send a *third* Deputation, we trust that the arrangements will be such, that there shall be no cause

* "That dissensions and divisions of the same kind as those by which the parent Church has been afflicted, unhappily found their way into the Colonial Synods and congregations, is well known; and that these elements of strife have there been productive of similar and most lamentable results, is but too certain. Of this state of matters little, indeed, fell under our personal observation; but by the friends of religion, whom we met, its existence was every where spoken of with deep regret; nor could we do otherwise than entirely agree with them in condemning and deploring the introduction of divisions of this kind into the Colonies, where such introduction was so utterly gratuitous and uncalled-for on the one hand, and where it could not fail, on the other, to be specially disastrous. Patronage has no existence among them. There is no connection there between the Church and the State, except, in some places, that of a small pecuniary grant derived from public property, which neither party, so far as we ever heard, had the slightest desire to repudiate. And just as little connection had the Colonial Churches with the Church of Scotland, in the form either of subjection to her authority or of responsibility for her actions. But, while division on the questions agitated in Scotland, was in the Colonies thus entirely uncalled-for and altogether gratuitous, it cannot fail, in their circumstances, to shed in an equally extreme degree a baleful influence on the interests of religion there. In a country where congregations, when united, are scarcely able to support a minister, the effect of division, besides all the other evils thence arising, must almost inevitably be the loss to both parties of the ministrations of a spiritual labourer. While disputing, and differing, and dividing about matters in which neither has the slightest practical concern, they forfeit what is of equal and unspeakable moment to both."

for a similar complaint, and that a Layman of experience and worth will accompany it.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MINISTERS.

By an Act passed last Session by the Provincial Legislature, a Corporation was created for raising and managing a Fund for the Benefit of the Widows and Orphans of Ministers of the Presbyterian Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. The management of the Trust is vested in a Board, consisting of eight Laymen and four Clergymen.

Considering the small amount of stipend which most of the Clergy throughout the Province receive, it is not to be expected that they could, of themselves, furnish the sum necessary for securing even a moderate annual provision for their Widows and Orphans. With a liberality which is highly creditable to them, they have already signified their intention of applying £3 per annum towards the purposes of the trust; but great reliance is necessarily placed on the assistance to be derived from the Laity. By direction of the Synod, a collection is to be taken up in each of the Churches within their bounds, on the first Sunday in January, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The call thus made on the benevolence of the members of our Church, will, we hope, be heartily and liberally responded to. We think that no one will deny, that the usefulness and respectability of our Clergy will be greatly increased by the creation and maintenance of the Fund under consideration. The Presbyterian Clergyman is not unfrequently a prey to the most lively apprehensions as to the condition, after his own decease, of the faithful partner of his joys and sorrows, and of their beloved children; as he is compelled, from the important and responsible character of his office, to maintain a respectable appearance in society, so that he is altogether unable, from the small amount of his remuneration, to lay past a sum at all sufficient for their support. To a Clergyman in these depressing circumstances, there can scarcely be presented a prospect more dreary and forlorn, or more calculated to weaken his efforts in his holy vocation, than the anticipation (as the subject cannot fail to be frequently forced upon his mind) of what may be the temporal circumstances of his nearest and dearest relatives, after his warfare on earth has been accomplished. Let us all then, cheerfully, at the approaching collection, do our utmost, according to our several abilities, to place the Fund on a respectable basis; and we may rest assured that great and permanent benefit will result, not only to the Clergy and their relatives, but to the Church generally. Relieved from harassing and vexatious cares, the Ministers will, with increased vigour and zeal, apply themselves to their Master's work.