

Prince Edward Island.

St. John's Church, Belfast.

THIS Church, one of the oldest buildings among our places of worship, is now undergoing a thorough renovation. At a meeting of the congregation, held a few weeks ago, it was resolved to make extensive repairs, so as to secure comfort and the respectability of appearance, which should distinguish, everywhere, the House of God. A large and very liberal subscription was made on the spot; and, although but a few weeks have passed since the work was resolved on, a large portion of it has already been accomplished. Before the end of October, the whole will be finished; and it includes, besides other necessary repairs and changes, the shingling and plastering of the whole building, with the addition of a large Vestry. This Church, when originally built, about forty years ago, was one of the best of the Protestant Churches in the Island. It is now again about to resume its original position, and to become what the Church occupied by a congregation like that of Belfast should be. In the meantime, and for some weeks to come, public worship must be held in the open air, which, although not always very comfortable, is cheerfully submitted to by pastor and people, from the pleasure and comfort anticipated when again permitted to occupy the sacred building. To complete their extensive repairs will require an amount of upwards of £250. A short time ago, another Church was erected at Orwall, for the accommodation of that section of the congregation residing there, at a cost exceeding £300. This has been done amid difficulties caused by an almost entire failure in the crops. For two successive seasons they were subjected to this severe trial, and the debts then incurred in providing food for themselves and families, still continue to embarrass many of them. The efforts which, in these circumstances, have thus been made, and the vigor with which, especially, this last one is being carried on, speak well for our people, and afford some evidence that they value the means of grace.

A BELFASTER.

Presentation to Rev. Alex. McLean.

In our last, we had space merely to mention the fact that the esteemed pastor of St. John's Church, Belfast—Rev. Mr. McLean—had been the recipient of a very valuable set of silver-mounted Harness and Whip, from a number of gentlemen belonging to his congregation. Below will be found the Address and Reply presented on that occasion:—

To the Reverend Alexander McLean, A. M., Minister of St. John's Church, Belfast, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—

We, the undersigned, forming a few of the younger portion of this congregation, beg to present for your acceptance the accompanying gift,

as a small token of our affectionate regard and esteem for your personal and ministerial character.

We have had frequent and favourable opportunities of witnessing your constant desire to promote the interests of Religion, and your fidelity and zeal as a Christian pastor, during the past five years, in this extensive and populous Parish.

The deep interest which you have ever evinced in the religious instruction of the young, and particularly in the success of our Sabbath Schools, demands our grateful acknowledgments; while those of us who are engaged in the important duty of teaching, ought to be more stimulated by your countenance and counsel to steadfast perseverance in this labor of love.

In expressing our best wishes for your prosperity and comfort, both spiritual and temporal, we record our sincere desire that the Great Head of the Church—the Sovereign disposer of every event—may sustain you in all circumstances, and give you long to occupy this portion of His Vineyard with great acceptance and success; and that the spiritual benefits, which, as His Ambassador, you are privileged to dispense, may be reflected back richly upon your own soul, will continue to be our earnest prayer.

We are, Reverend and Dear Sir,

Yours affectionately,

JOHN MCLEOD, Elder,	} Committee on behalf of the Donors.
JAMES NICHOLSON, Elder,	
DANIEL FRASER, Major,	
DONALD MCLEOD,	
WILLIAM MCLEAN,	
JOSEPH M. DIXON,	
GEORGE YOUNG, Jun.,	

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—

I return you my sincere thanks, and through you to the rest of my friends, whom you now represent, for the expression of your feelings towards me contained in your address, and very tangibly embodied in the valuable gift which you have just placed in my hands. The intrinsic value of such a gift would render it impossible that I could receive it but with feelings of very great satisfaction; but let me assure you that its intrinsic value has but a very small share in producing the happiness which I feel in receiving this token of your good will. What gives this gift of yours its importance is, that I hope I may regard it as a proof that my services among you have not been altogether in vain. Of all the trials and difficulties which the minister of Christ has to encounter, there is none so discouraging, none that so effectually depresses his spirits and weighs him down, as the feeling that his people are indifferent, and that his labors are thrown away. It is, indeed, difficult to conceive a more painful position than his, who, by the apparent coldness of his flock, is left a prey to the well-grounded suspicion that they appreciate not his services, nor are animated towards him with feelings truly kind and friendly. It is hard to bear up long against this; the strongest man, and most animated with the spirit of his sacred office, will be in danger of sinking under the cold and crushing pressure. Equally true it is, that affection on the part of a congregation, and real and tangible expressions of kindness from them, are fitted to cheer the heart when sad and weary, and to render the heaviest labor a pleasure. To feel that his services are valued, and that he is rewarded for these services by the unfeigned affection of a grateful people, must always have the effect of increasing the pastor's affection for his flock; and as that feeling grows in strength, exertion becomes easy and the burden feels light. The labor of love is ever pleasant. In so far, therefore, as gifts such as you have presented, express