

THE Rev. James McColl formerly of De Sable has been inducted to the Parish of Cumlodden in Argyleshire. Mrs. McColl and family left Charlottetown for Scotland a few weeks ago.

It is expected that the Colonial Committee will send out one or two Gaelic Speaking missionaries, if they can be secured, to labour with Mr. Godwill in P. E. Island.

THURSDAY the 6th inst. was observed as a day of Thanksgiving throughout the Dominion. Services were held in the churches and collections were generally made in aid of charitable schemes.

The Presbytery grants frequent supplies to St. Andrews Church Pictou and the Session secures further supply by private arrangement, so that service is held every Sabbath as usual.

CHINA.

HOPEFUL PROSPECTS.

The following are extracts from recent letters received from the Mission in China.

The first extracts are from a letter of the Rev. Mr. Cockburn, dated I-chang, 17th July, 1879. It is truly cheering to find that the labours of our missionaries are already bringing forth fruit.

I-chang, China, 17th July, 1879.

"It is but right that I should tell you, at as early a date as possible, of the cheering signs of the past few weeks. Several parties have of their own accord come forward and asked to be baptised. Nothing is known against any of them which would induce me to suppose that they are actuated by improper motives; and had there been even the nucleus of a Christian Church at I-chang, some of them would have been at once received. But as the first converts will exert an immeasurable influence, for weal or woe, I thought it best not to receive them at once, but put them on trial, as it were, even although their knowledge of the

Scriptures, and character, so far as known, would have justified any one in baptizing them. As you are aware, I conduct a Chinese service every Sunday, at which our servants and any Christians there may be in I-chang attend. For some time past we have been cheered by the presence of a number of strangers, all more or less interested in the religion. I may explain that this meeting is for worship, and consequently semi-private; we could not worship if the door was opened and all passers-by invited to come in. Six days of the week the Gospel is expounded in this promiscuous fashion; on the Lord's Day it is different. We do not want a gaping, tittering crowd passing out and in to disturb us; and though glad to have strangers present, they are there only when invited to attend, or when they ask to be allowed to do so; and this is why, I think some weight should be attached to the number of strangers attending our Sunday meetings.

"It is time that I said something about the applicants for baptism. The first is a school-master residing at a village about twenty-seven miles from I-chang, a very superior man. What would people in Scotland think of going on foot twenty-seven miles to church! This man has done so oftener than once: Of course it takes him two days. Last Sunday he arrived late, on account of the rain. I had a long talk with him on Monday. He wished to be baptised; and showed a very creditable acquaintance with the New Testament, and, what is more to the point, understood what he spoke about. I pointed out what he would have to renounce if he joined us, and the trials he would have to bear; and although I did not neglect to exhort him, and point out the Gospel promises, after his departure my heart smote me as if I had almost tried him from becoming a Christian. I sent him away with some books, and specially a catechism by Mr. John of Hankow; which, in so far as my limited acquaintance with Chinese Christian literature allows me to speak, is by far the best digest of Christianity we have. He is to learn this catechism in the meantime; and let his friends know of his resolution and try to bring them to the truth. In