

many striking remarks and beautiful illustrations, some of which, did space admit, we would willingly transfer to our columns. We can only find room at present for another extract, on the composition and membership of Christian Associations, which we consider well worthy the attention of all parties, but more especially of those more immediately concerned:

"Its active membership," we are assured, "though not exclusively, yet for the most part comprises young men, who are members, in full communion and creditable standing, with one or other of our Protestant congregations—persons who, in the morning of life, have had their eyes opened to the paramount importance of a pious belief and a religious practice as the most useful aids, of which they can avail themselves in their several callings, and as indispensable requisites to the highest success and happiest termination of their earthly career; who have not been ashamed to express publicly the estimation they have formed of the Everlasting Gospel; and who profess to have imbibed a taste for pure spiritual enjoyments. With these are associated others, who, though they have not yet taken this distinctive stand, are deemed admissible, because of the safeguard which their good moral character affords; for being invited to participate in the benefits enjoyed, it is believed they will manifest no desire, as they cannot have any opportunity, to invade or degrade the peculiar sacredness of the Institution. At the same time, their respectful regard for all that is good, honest and upright, lovely and of good report, is held to be a trustworthy and encouraging ground of expectation, that they will ultimately be persuaded, that a lowly, yet implicit faith in the love of Christ to sinners, as testified by its ineffable manifestations and responsive awakenings, supplies the strongest motives, imparts the best encouragement, and exerts the most effective impulse, in the study of ethical obligations and the maintenance of a moral life. The members of the Association then, are chiefly the young, the ardent, the active, the hopeful sons of toil, into whose hands must speedily be transferred every trust, which is now held by their seniors in the community. At present they are surrounded by temptations and exposed to contaminating influences, against which they desire to strengthen one another, and from the dominion of which they seek to rescue their compeers, by that most winning and persuasive of all examples, the godly life of a youthful Christian. Our young men are now contracting habits, imbibing principles, and acquiring tastes, which must not only affect their eternal well-being, but must inevitably decide the character of society, when they become its prime movers, and when they occupy its chief places, and must certainly issue, therefore, in a term of happiness and peace, or a season of dismemberment and misery. From their ranks, all the offices in church and state will, by and by, be filled. All the superior relations of domestic life, and all the posts in the commercial world, will be supplied by them with occupants. And if piety to God and love to man, if minds in harmony and hearts in unison with the eternal laws of righteousness and truth can insure, as God's word tells us, and as all history convinces us they will, the greatest amount of immediate good, and the quickest marches of real and enlightened progress—how praiseworthy and becoming! that we

should all give them our countenance and support in their present laudable endeavours. Where is the minister or teacher—where the parent or guardian? who does not feel, that any young man committed to his charge, is by becoming a member of this association, entering into a relationship which will tend to the realization of his hopes and wishes concerning him, and fit him in a peculiar manner for the most profitable discharge of present duty.

(For the Monthly Record.)

The New Church at St. Mary's.

RESIDING on the East River of St. Mary's, there are a few scattered adherents of our Church. It is long now, very long, since they enjoyed the benefit of a stated ministry. That ministry, when they had it, must have been more than usually excellent. It must have been searching and full of faith and prayer, for its effects have been abiding. They are among them even unto this day. Since these times of privilege passed away, the call to stated public worship has been unheard in these fertile and beautiful solitudes, and sire and son are dropping into the tomb without the presence and prayers of a minister of their venerated church. Meantime, they, like others, have experienced the sad effects of stormy 1843. When the storm passed away they were a wreck—but a remnant hung on. As now situated they are unable to build churches, and support a minister. But under the care of the Presbytery of Pictou they have again taken courage. The ancient spirit and attachment have burst forth. When visited on one occasion last year, by two ministers of the gospel belonging to our church, they in a gush of enthusiasm resolved to build a place of worship, and promised help which was considered by all, at the time, an overtaking of their powers. A year has since elapsed. In that time the active portion of them have lost four attached and consistent families, who have emigrated to Canada. One would suppose that in these circumstances the work must stop. What was very like impossible before must be actually impossible now. This is not the case, however, for zeal and earnestness are not to be meted with such measures. We have seen this building lately. It is a large, high and square structure compactly built together. Materials are prepared to complete the shell of it. To do all this one family has given besides money sixty days work. This is truly self-denying, and more encouraging than pages of supplication. These efforts breathe a determination to do for themselves. But while they do not seek help, we ask our Christian friends if they are not the proper objects of it. Should a struggling few not be cheered by the sympathy and relief of their more numerous and richer brethren. That the poorer be assisted by the wealthier churches is apostolic precept. This would

be a very legitimate fruit of true faith. Should any member of our Church, especially any of our friends in Halifax, who as they are willing, are generally supposed to be able, and who give, many of them, to all denominations, think this a claimant case, the Presbytery of Pictou would receive their contributions; and with this we leave the matter to the kind Christian and considerate charities of the readers of this periodical.

St John's Church, Belfast.

A general meeting of the congregation of St. John's Church, Belfast, convened according to appointment on the 7th January, 1856, and after having been constituted with prayer, Alex. McLean, Esq., Convener of the Committee, took the chair, and read a statement of the Secretary's account of pew assessments and voluntary subscriptions, paid during the two past years: and also the Treasurer's accounts of monies paid for repairing the church during the same period;—after which Messrs. William McLean, Pinette and John McLeod, Orwell River, were appointed auditors to examine and report on the said accounts, who, after a close examination of the same and of the Vouchers, reported the same to be correct, and that a balance of £137 54d. was still in the hands of Mr. Peter Nicolson, Treasurer.

The congregation then unanimously agreed to give Mr. John McLeod, the Secretary, Glashven, a donation of £3, as an acknowledgement of his valuable services as Secretary and otherwise.

The following resolutions and propositions were then unanimously adopted:

1. Moved by Allan McDougall Esq., Flat River, and seconded by Mr. Malcolm Stewart, Bell Creek: *Resolved*, that an assessment of fifteen shillings be paid in the meantime by each pew holder, towards providing materials for building a Manse for the Clergyman, in addition to voluntary subscriptions which may be received.

2. Moved by John McDougall Esq., Flat River, and seconded by Mr. John Nicolson, Flat River: *Resolved*, that the pew holders and Young Men of the parish further agree to cut and haul the frame for the building, whenever the land, long ago promised to W. Douse Esq. M.P.P. in behalf of the Parish of Selkirk, to the said parish, be secured: to accomplish this object, that Messrs. McDougall and Malcolm Stewart call on Mr. Douse, at their earliest convenience, to obtain the title deed of the land so promised, and the name of the corporation.

3. It was also *Resolved*, that the interest of the ladies within the congregation be enlisted to provide materials for a Bazaar, for the month of July or August, to aid in procuring funds to finish said Manse: and that also ladies at a distance, who may feel an interest in the prosperity of our church and congregation, respectfully solicited to contribute to the object.

4. It was moreover *Resolved*, that the Provincial Assembly be petitioned to have the corporation of the St. John's congregation far altered, as to have the management of secular affairs transferred from the current Ministers and Elders, to the management of the Trustees or Deacons: and that