

judicious measure of appointing you Superintendent of Missions. From your high clerical standing,—from your experience of the necessities of the country,—from your talent to discover and supply the remedy and deficiencies, the choice could not have fallen on one more capable.

Your zeal and exertions in the cause should be an example to all who enter on missionary labours in the Church in this Province, and we would strongly recommend them to obtain your counsel, convinced that you would impress the duty and obligation of their entering on such calling in a proper spirit, as we consider, from your position as Superintendent of Missions, they are entitled to look to you as head, and that they act in accordance with your instructions.

That the Great Head of the Church may long spare you to dispense the Gospel of Salvation and gather many souls into his Kingdom where you will have the reward that will be bestowed for enlisting so many under the Banner of the Cross, is the ardent wish and prayer of

Rev. and dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MCKENZIE,
DUNCAN MATHESON,
DAVID SUTHERLAND,
DAVID MCINTOSH,
HUGH H. ROSS,
DONALD MCKAY,
GEORGE MCLEOD,
DAVID A. ROSS,
W. G. SUTHERLAND.

Saint Luke's, Salt Springs,
13th Sept., 1858.

MR. MARTIN'S REPLY.

Dear Brethren,—

I receive with sincere affection and gratitude the address which you have now presented to me at the conclusion of the Communion services in St. Luke's Church, West River of Pictou. Coming from the office-bearers of a congregation with which I have been acquainted for a period of more than thirty years, expressing, as I firmly believe it does, your cordial and affectionate sentiments of esteem and brotherly kindness towards me, and approving of my humble services among you, as a minister of the gospel, and of my appointment as Superintendent of Missions in this Province, your address cannot fail to prove most welcome and encouraging. I have endeavored through a long life to discharge my duty according to the best of my ability, not only to the congregation for so many years committed to my pastoral charge, but to all the congregations within the influence of my public ministrations, although none is more conscious than I am, how far short I have come of my duty both to the members of my beloved church and to my God.

I saw very soon after my arrival in this Colony that there was much land to be possessed; and although stationed in the

capital of the Province, I often availed myself of the opportunities afforded to me for visiting missionary stations and vacant congregations throughout the country, and your own congregation among the number. In co-operation with beloved brethren, some of whom have left the Province and others, I trust, are now in a better world, we succeeded in collecting a great number of firm adherents, in forming them into united and prosperous congregations, in erecting several Presbyteries and a large and influential Synod in Nova Scotia. In process of time, however, a dark cloud came over our colonial church, at the very moment when we were cherishing sanguine hopes of success, and attempting the formation of new Ecclesiastical Institutions, our prosperity for a short season was almost entirely eclipsed and our Church nearly annihilated. But although the bush burned with fire, and the flames raged with great violence, it was not consumed. A few ministers remained steadfast at their posts, and none certainly is entitled to higher praise for his unwearied labours, than the aged and venerable father of your Presbytery, the Rev. Alexander McGillivray. We were greatly encouraged in this trying emergency, also, by the unshaken steadfastness and fidelity of the leading members of our congregations, even when left in a great measure destitute of the ordinances of religion. In the good providence of God, sustained and animated by the prayers and affections of our beloved and faithful people, and greatly aided by the disinterested exertions and distinguished liberality of the Deputations and Colonial Committee of our Parent Church, we are now beginning once more to enjoy returning prosperity. A number of our vacant congregations have been provided with acceptable pastors—many missionary visits have been paid to remote and destitute settlements, several new preaching stations have been opened up, and a number of missionary associations formed for collecting funds to render our congregations, as soon as possible, self-sustaining.

Now, if past exertions have generally a powerful influence upon coming events, we, as a religious denomination, have certainly much encouragement in looking forward to the future extension and growing prosperity of our church in this colony. Whilst so many surrounding districts are visited, and so many destitute congregations supplied with the ordinances of religion, surely the united congregation of Salt Springs and Garsloch, as one of our oldest, largest, and most prosperous congregations in Nova Scotia, with two new and commodious places of worship, capable of containing more than 2000 persons, and ample funds for the support of the Gospel, must have strong claims upon the services of the ministers and missionaries within our bounds. And the day cannot be

far distant when you, as in times past, shall have a faithful and devoted pastor to dispense to you the word and bread of life. Your steadfast adherence to your beloved church, sometimes amidst great privations and in the most discouraging circumstances, your regular attendance upon the ordinances of religion as often as they are dispensed among you, and your public spirited exertions and liberality displayed in the erection of two of the largest churches in the country, are pledges of your determination to maintain the institutions of christianity within your borders, which cannot be too highly commended. You have many friends who sympathise with you in your present destitute condition, who are ready and willing to advocate your cause, and who long for your prosperity. I account it a high privilege to have an opportunity of rendering you such occasional services as my time and strength will permit, and nothing, I can assure you, would afford me greater satisfaction than to see you and other warmly attached congregations within the bounds of our Synod provided with faithful and diligent pastors able to dispense the ordinances of religion in your own native language. That the exalted King and Head of the Church may abundantly bless you in your persons, in your families, and as a religious body,—that He may revive and prosper His own work in your hearts and in your houses, and that He may train you up as His faithful followers by the discipline of His providence, the ordinances of His grace, and the influences of His spirit, for perfect and endless felicity in His Heavenly Kingdom, is the earnest and fervent prayer of, dear brethren,

Your sincere and devoted servt.,

JOHN MARTIN.

Superintendent of Missions.

Halifax, 24th Sept., 1858.

Union Committees.

The Committees on Union appointed respectively by the Presbyterian and Free Synods of Nova Scotia held their first conference on Thursday last in the Free Church College Hall in this city. There were present from the Presbyterian Synod's Committee Revs. Profess. Ross, P. G. McGregor, James Bayne, R. Sedgwick, John Cameron, and Charles Robson, Esq. From Free Church—Revs Professor King, William Duff, W. Murray, and A. McKnight. Professor King was chosen Chairman of the Conference, and Rev. P. G. McGregor Secretary. At the request of the Chairman Rev. Mr. Bayne invoked the Divine blessing upon the meeting, earnestly praying for help and guidance from the great Head of the Church in regard to the momentous question to be considered.

The meeting was of a highly satisfactory character. A spirit of peace and of earnest desire for the accomplishment of the object which had brought the brethren together prevailed throughout. After some hours spent in conference, the result of the Committee's deliberations, we are happy to learn, was the unan-