

Mr. McDowell, late of Kemptville, repoued his certificate, and his name is to be transmitted to the Synod's Home Mission Committee.

Mr. McDowell sat with the Presbytery, on motion of Mr. McVilvie.

It was found that the collection for the French Canadian Mission had been duly taken up.

The Church organized in Thurso by Mr. Fraser, was recognised and placed under the session of Cumberland.

Several sums were acknowledged for the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the congregations in default to make collections forthwith.

Mr. Fraser on account of ill health, craved leave to demit his charge. His congregations were cited to appear at next meeting.

A Presbyterial certificate was granted to Mr. J. Whyte, Probationer.

Mr. McEwan read a highly satisfactory report of his labours during the summer.

An adjourned meeting is to be held in Ramsey, on the 7th of October; and the next ordinary meeting is to be held in Prescott, in December.

Two missionaries are to be applied for—Mr. Montgomery being one.

Several appointments for supply were made.

S. C. FRASER, Pres. Clerk.

Communications, &c.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. BURNS.

To the Editor of the Record.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

You will readily believe me when I say that, beyond the correspondence which was absolutely necessary, my college collections, and my visits of friendly relationship have left me little time for letter writing. The period of my return to Canada, however, now draws near, and I take up my pen to sketch a little of my proceedings. My health has been, in much mercy, preserved entire, and the varied interviews with old friends, along with pleasing introductions into new circles, have been abundantly refreshing. Twelve years had passed away since I left Scotland, and many blanks, occasioned by deaths and removals, remind one of what human life is, while they solemnise the mind in the anticipation of that great change which awaits us all.

Arriving in Scotland on the 10th of May, I had sufficient time before the meeting of the General Assembly to visit the scenes of my own ministry for nearly thirty-five years. Paisley will ever be dear to me by many interesting associations, and it still retains its place among the strongholds of evangelical truth. There I was ordained over a parish of 7,000 souls, on July 18th, 1811, and of the members and adherents who then called me to be their minister, one or two individuals are all that now remain in the land of the living. But many of those who grew up under my ministry, remain and occupy important stations in society and the Church; and our mutual intercourse was exceedingly pleasing, and let us hope, not unprofitable.

Of our reception at the Assembly of the Free Church, you are already informed; and I have now the satisfaction of adding that my recognition by the General Assembly of the Church of Ireland, was not less ready and liberal. While it fell to me to proceed to Belfast, where the Assembly was to hold its Annual Meeting, my colleague in the mission, Mr. Fraser, proceeded to London. We had drawn up and printed a joint address, on behalf of the College, and the circulation of this address pretty extensively, paved the way for the measure of

success with which our appeals have been responded to. The Assembly of both Churches approved our object, and recommended it to Christian patronage, and the Mission Boards of both Churches followed this up by liberal grants from their treasuries. For these tokens of interest, and for all the benefactions of private friends, our gratitude is greatly due.

The meetings and the discussions in the Assembly at Belfast were particularly interesting. A few features may be specified. The Reports of Home and Foreign Missions, accompanied as they were, by the personal presence and address of leading agents and missionaries, furnished, day after day, fresh sources of valuable information, and gave occasion to gratifying interchanges of sympathetic affection. The subjects of theological training and of preparatory education for aspirants to the ministry were ably treated by Dr. McCosh of Queen's College, and other influential members and friends. The question of ministerial support experienced befitting consideration, and many suggestions were made, which all non-endowed or established Churches would do well to profit by. The spirit of Popery must always stand out pre-eminent in an Irish Presbyterian Assembly; and at no period could a stronger demonstration have been given of the imperious necessity of union and a good understanding among all the friends of Protestant truth.

The numerous representatives of foreign Churches present gave a character of enlarged liberality and enlightened zeal to the various meetings. I had meant to be present at the Berlin Conference in September, but the Lallarpee, and the Pilattes, &c., of continental evangelical Protestantism, seemed to furnish me by anticipation with not a little of what those present at the great Assembly of Evangelical Christendom must enjoy in still larger abundance. One very interesting scene was presented us in the Belfast Assembly: a Missionary to the Jews was to be ordained by the Assembly, and while a select number of members, including the Moderator and Clerk, behaved to take lead in conducting the service, the corresponding representatives from the Free Church of Scotland, from the Waldensian Church and other evangelical communities on the continent of Europe, from the Presbyterian Church in England, from Canada, and from Africa, were associated with them in the solemn duty, to the delight and edification of a crowded Assembly of missionaries and office-bearers, and members. Persons connected with other denominations, Episcopalians among others, were present, and they had an opportunity of witnessing what was at once new and striking to them. Such scenes as these are amongst the best practical illustrations of the value of Christian principles, not in regard to doctrine only, but in respect of that holy influence which the discipline and Government of the Church of the Redeemer, when suitably administered, will ever command.

In the Free Church Assembly at Edinburgh perhaps the most interesting subject of discussion to us Canadians was that of the election of Professors to the three Colleges. It was signally characterised by independence of thinking and impartiality of movement. The questions as to College extension still evolve variety of opinion, but there seems little difference as to the fitness of the men actually chosen. I may remark, moreover, that important vacancies, to be filled in consequence of "transportations" to chairs, will render it really necessary in us to husband our own resources, and to rely still less than heretofore on the supplies which may reach us from other churches.

Mr. Editor, my "harvest" is not yet over, and brethren and friends must bear with me if I do not get away before the middle of

October. My northern tour is yet to be made, (God willing,) and our old kind friend, Mr. Cameron of Ardenrie has put himself at my service for two weeks. We have some warm-hearted friends of our College and of our infant Church in the Northern parts.

My dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

ROBT. BURNS.

PROGRESS—COLBORNE

Though stone and lime and timber, however neatly arranged, cannot make the Church of the Living God yet a comfortable building adds greatly to the pleasure of the worshippers. The Irvingites sensible of this matter, lay it down as a principle always to set apart for the service of God, a better house than the one in which any member of the congregation resides. The Presbyterians of Colborne and vicinity had long neglected acting up to this principle which we know was understood so long ago as the time of David and Solomon.—Last Sabbath, however, they took possession of an edifice which, even on the principles of the Irvingites, is every way suitable for the worship of God.

Yet this beautiful building taken possession of for God on last Sabbath, is no other than the old stone church which for nearly thirty years stood unfinished, and which was crumbling to dust. The building however, has undergone complete repair; the walls and part of the roof of the old alone remaining, while all besides is completely new and modern.

This Church was among the first erected in this part of the Province. It was commenced under the direction of the late lamented Rev. Mr. Millar, who was drowned in 1834, in the Bay of Quinte.

At that time the congregation was united to Cobourg; the pastoral charge being Cobourg and Colborne.

After some years, the Congregation was united to Grafton, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. W. Reid, now of Toronto, and latterly under the charge of the Rev. J. W. Smith. Colborne is now being separated from Grafton, to be united to a new station formed at Brighton, thereby making room for the fourth pastor in what was formerly Mr. Millar's field of labour, or taking in Percy and the rear of Haldimand, we have at present six congregations within the boundary of what twenty-five years ago was one pastoral charge.

The opening services on Sabbath, 9th Aug., were conducted by Rev. John Smith, of Bowmanville, and the Rev. W. McKenzie of Baltimore. The discourses were appropriate and pleasing. The attendance was large, crowding the house at each of the services. The large audience was composed of the various religious denominations of the village, thereby showing that there may be much unity and harmony among christians, without entire uniformity.

The renewal of the church cost about £350. The females deserve high commendation for their part in the matter: £120 was the result of female industry raised by the sale of the work of their own hands. The sum of £20 collected by Mr. Smith, in Britain was handed over to the Congregation. Several friends, not members of the congregation, contributed handsomely to the building fund. And the congregation now steadily increasing, have taken possession of their comfortable church with a very small incumbrance. May the congregation increase even more rapidly than the rising village to which the church is now an ornament and we hope a blessing, and may they soon be provided with a pastor of the Master's choice.