

Dr. Aiton has also been informed by Mr. Morris of Montreal that "he is led to expect from two churches £20 each per annum."

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. MR. MURRAY OF MELROSE.—Last week, the members of Ladhope Church, Melrose, presented the Rev. Wm. Murray with his portrait, as a testimony of their acknowledgement of his exertions in procuring the endowment of Ladhope Church, which are well known to many of our readers. Through his individual instrumentality that object was lately happily accomplished. The portrait is a life size, in colored crayon, by James Archer, Esq., B. A., of Edinburgh.

MIDMAR SETTLEMENT.—The Presbytery of Kincardine-O'Neil held a meeting at Cottage Inn, Midmar, on Tuesday, when a deputation from those few parishioners who, at a former meeting had tendered objections to the presentee, waited on the Presbytery in a very friendly and conciliatory spirit, and expressed their willingness now to fall from the objections and hold the matter as amicably arranged. The Presbytery resolved, in these circumstances, to sustain the call, which had been respectfully signed, and to proceed to the admission of the presentee, the Rev. W. A. Smith, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Missionary Report

By the Rev. George Harper, A. M. Preacher of the Gospel, to the Presbytery of Pitou.

Having officiated in St. James, Charlottetown, on the first Sabbath of June, I next proceeded, about the middle of the week, on a visit to Georgetown, where I preached on the following Lord's day. The attendance, both before and after noon, was very good. Not a few, as I understood, came a considerable distance to attend divine service; and it is truly gratifying to find that in this locality we are still, after all, not without a considerable remnant, who are strongly attached to us. For some time past, as the Presbytery are aware, our friends in Georgetown have been receiving from the Revd. Messrs. Snodgrass and Mackay as much attention as the duty of these gentlemen to their congregations will allow. And surely, it cannot for a moment be doubted, that the members of our Church in Charlottetown and Belfast, when enjoying regular services, would, in the true spirit of a Christian sympathy and brotherhood, at once agree to an arrangement of this nature, which would serve not only to strengthen the cause of our beloved Zion in this quarter, but also afford to others of the same Church with themselves, an occasional opportunity of receiving the means of grace. It is thus only, in my humble judgment, by mutual good offices and encouragements, that our cause can be expected to flourish. In every good work of the kind, our people ought always to be ready to second the zeal and laborious, and praiseworthy efforts of our ministers and missionaries. Vacant stations are to be supplied and lost ground recovered. It is to be lamented that the day is now gone by when

throughout these flourishing provinces, every settlement of almost any note numbered amongst its laborious denizens not a few of our loyal and devoted adherents. But like the lost tribes of Israel, in too many instances they are now diligently sought after but cannot be found.—Hope deferred has long since induced numbers of our people to merge in other kindred denominations, and left us but a scattered remnant here and there in the wilderness, men to whom the very dust of the Church of their forefathers is still dear—men who could fearlessly and conscientiously take up the language of the Psalmist, and say—"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget her cunning." For those then who still remain amid the wreck—for those who yet cherish towards her such intense feelings of ardent devotion—and all things considered, the proportion of such is by no means small—for them will the Church and her ministers be appealed to in vain. If the cry is but faintly heard across the Atlantic, it but the more stirs to renewed zeal the small but undismayed band of hard-working ministers who listen to it near at hand, and who cannot but feel that though settled in particular localities, they are still *Missionaries*—and thus will continue until the last sigh for spiritual relief is hushed, and the last vacant station filled up. And thus, by united and vigorous action, much yet may be accomplished; and by the speedy arrival of fresh missionaries, now so anxiously looked for, new life will ere long be infused into the cause, which not many years ago appeared so hopeless.

At Georgetown, both after the forenoon and afternoon service, I took the opportunity of suggesting the propriety of having a Sabbath School in connection with the Church. Without doubt there would be much good done in this way; if one or two godly and pious men were to interest themselves in the spiritual welfare of the young of the congregation; and although it is much to be regretted that the idea is not always acted upon in the present age, which is too much of a cold and utilitarian spirit, it is nevertheless strictly true that every Christian man should consider himself in duty bound to do something towards the interests of the Church whereof he is a member. If a member of any secular association or society enters heart and hand into its objects, how much more should the faithful member of a Christian communion? To whatever branch of this divine institution we may happen to belong, we are called upon to seek by every means in our power, by our wealth, our talents, and exertions to promote its welfare. If we reverence the divine head of the church, and appreciate the great and glorious privileges of its worthy members, we cannot be lukewarm in so noble a cause. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that there will be found those among our adherents at Georgetown who will do what they can to carry out this suggestion. In itself it is undoubtedly a good work, and one which cannot fail to secure the divine blessing upon its faithful and diligent prosecution.

I at the same time made another similar suggestion, which I have no doubt will also meet the entire approval of the Presbytery.—I proposed that, when not otherwise supplied, they should make arrangements to meet together for divine worship in the church on Sabbath days, for an hour or so in the forenoon, one of their number going through something like an ordinary service, reading a chapter of the holy Scriptures, or even a sermon from some sound evangelical author approved of by our Church. This is a plan which I believe has often been resorted to in the same circumstances with

much spiritual profit and advantage to all concerned. It may be remembered that in early times Christians were not often accustomed to enjoy what may be called the *luxury* of preaching by a body of men regularly qualified for the office; and they were in many respects, I fear, worthier disciples than many of us at the present day, who may be living amidst great displays of Gospel light and Gospel privileges. The fact is that, in too many instances, the possession of a super-abundance of Christian principles becomes a stumbling-block, and I am inclined to hold that the possession of a clear knowledge of God's Word, without note or comment in a language we understand, is of itself an unspeakable advantage. I believe further that it is quite possible for any intelligent man who has made the Bible his study to know its contents as fully as a professed teacher of religion, though at the same time I entirely disapprove of lay preaching, as tending to promote confusion and disorder in the Church. But I do think that, in such circumstances as these, the reading of the Bible in public is an exercise which if carried out in a proper spirit, will doubtless be accompanied by its proper reward.

While at Georgetown, I was very glad to find our "Monthly Record" so well liked by the members of our Church there, as everywhere else. Through the exertions of the agent, Mr. Finlay McNeill, merchant, whom we regard as a true and sincere friend of the Establishment, its circulation is now double what it was last year; I have no doubt it will be still further extended. Our friends cannot fail to perceive that with such means as they are at command, the ministers of our Church are doing what they can for the promotion of their spiritual improvement. As a subscriber, I can conscientiously say that it is well worth double the money they pay for it.

While upon this subject, I may further mention, what I am sure will be regarded as a very gratifying piece of information. Being desirous on all occasions to forward the interests of our little periodical, I inspected the list of Subscribers for the Island, and was delighted to find among them the names of so many of our people under the spiritual superintendence of the Rev. Donald McDonald, one of the oldest ministers, I believe, in connection with the Presbyterian Church in the lower colonies. Though I have never had the pleasure of meeting this revered gentleman, I am not unaware of his zeal on behalf of our Scottish Judah. I have conversed with several of the members of his flock, and have ever heard him spoken of by them with the highest feelings of respect, amounting almost to veneration. In writing to the Colonial Committee about a year ago, I took occasion to represent to them that if *Gaelic* missionaries could be obtained for the Island, they would be sure to find in the extensive and populous district presently occupied by that aged but still vigorous servant of our common Lord and Master, an abundant field of usefulness; but the difficulty in the meantime of responding to such a call is well known to all our highland congregations, though it is to be hoped that better days may appear. In several of the houses which I visited, I found copies of Mr. Macdonald's writings, which I understand are much esteemed. One of his works, a treatise against the Baptists, now so numerous around us, I perused one day with much satisfaction, and scarcely know where to admire more the lucidity and vigor of his arguments, or the force and clearness of his style. It is truly refreshing to find the views of our Church on so important a subject defended