

James Dickson, late minister of Marytown, Presbytery of Brechin, in connection with the Free Church. Mr. Dickson stated that he "had undergone a ten years conflict between a sense of duty and a desire for consistency and he had long been reluctant to acknowledge his fault: which, however, he now did." It is instructive and suggestive to read this confession, and we cannot but hope that if there are many more in the same state of mind, that they will throw aside all fear of man, and all desire for consistency in a schismatic course, and return to that body which we cannot but regard as in a special sense the true branch of Christ's visible Church in Scotland.

On account of some informality in the application of one and some enquiries to be made in the case of the other the reception of these two gentlemen has been delayed, but we trust they will ultimately be both received.

We have much pleasure also in calling the attention of our readers to the speech of which we have given extracts of the Rev. Dr. Blakeney, a clergyman of the English Church before the General Assembly, which shows the christian and kind feeling that prevails between the evangelical portion of that church and the Church of Scotland. As in review the whole proceedings of this Assembly, we have much reason for gratitude to God and many encouragements for the future.

[For the Record.]

MR. EDITOR.—I have just been reading a Canadian Paper, containing an account of the meeting of the Synod of our Church in Montreal. Among other business of interest I am delighted to find that the Rev. Dr. Mathieson and Professor George have been appointed corresponding members to our Synod in Halifax, and I look forward with great pleasure to their favouring us with their presence and their counsels. Should they come I am sure they will be most warmly received by all the brethren and by the good people of Halifax. It is stated also that this is but a preliminary step to a movement in favour of the formation of a General Assembly of our Church in these North American Colonies. Indeed, this subject was openly spoken of in the Canadian Synod, and it seems to be most anxiously desired by the ministers of the Scotch Church in that Province. I little thought when a suggestion of this kind was thrown out in a recent number of the Record that it would so soon be taken up in earnest. I confess for my own part that the thought of such a communication being realized delights me. I can conceive of nothing that would tend more to build up and advance our church, and give her her true position in this new world. It would act as a powerful stimulus on all our ministers and people. I feel confident that such an enlargement of our borders would increase our efforts and encourage our hearts. It would tend to create that buoyancy of feel-

ing which with us is often at such a low ebb, and which in a church, like a good flow of animal spirits in the body, is so conducive to energy and activity. The tides of Scotch-church life which are now checked by certain imaginary lines, would then flow freely over the whole of British North America. I believe that such a union would attract the attention of the Church at Home, and be the means of calling out many preachers to fill up our vacancies and take part in building up such a church, while at the same time, it would lead to vigorous measures for obtaining a regular supply of native ministers. Were this union effected and to be followed up by active exertions, might we not hope that our church would soon recover much of the ground that she has lost; and that many who have reluctantly connected themselves with other communions, would return to her time-honored pale. This is the Presbyterian union, which I should like to see realized in the first place; and the question of "re-union" could be an after consideration. I trust that our Synod will heartily sympathise with this movement of their brethren in Canada, and take some steps towards hastening this communion so devoutly to be wished. Apart from the benefits which would accrue to the Church of Scotland from such a result, we may in this way perhaps be the means of hastening on a movement in favour of the union of these provinces into one British American Nation. And thus our church would not only deserve well of her own children, but of the whole population and of a long posterity.

I am, yours, &c.

Gaelic Deputation.

THAT the christian religion possesses an expansive and aggressive influence and that it is designed by its divine author to pervade all ranks in society and fill the whole earth with its rich blessings, and spiritual fruits, are truths which can neither be gained or denied. It was first published that it might be propagated and wherever it has since been planted it has manifested a tendency to diffuse its pure spirit, and transforming efficacy. That Christian Church does not know its proper vocation or occupy its proper position in society, which does not see the necessity and feel the obligation of employing all the means within its reach, and availing itself of all the opportunities afforded, for the extension of religion and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The end and design of church organization and the principal business of ecclesiastical courts are not merely to preserve order and exercise discipline within the prescribed limits of their different congregations but to carry the glad tidings of salvation far and wide throughout the length and breadth of the land. We cannot consider any religious society as in a healthy and prosperous state unless it is prepared not only to provide for the spiritual necessities of all its adhering

population, but also to take possession of such new fields of usefulness, as may from time to time be opened up for cultivation. What a vast responsibility then devolves upon our church courts, more especially in such Colonies as Nova Scotia, where every institution is only in its infancy, where religious societies are only forming and the population must assume for ages to come, the peculiar features which are impressed upon it at the present day. How much may be gained in a few years by activity and diligence, and how much may be lost by neglect and indifference.

Admitting that our church courts should for a moment neglect their duty, would it not be unkind, would it not be really cruel and uncharitable to refuse to listen to those who in a state of utter helplessness and prostration are lifting up their imploring voice for religious instruction, and sending forth their mournful complaints from the remote settlements, and dense thickets of our beloved land.

When assembled together in a public and deliberative capacity, our ministers are forcibly reminded that the spiritual and immortal interests of thousands and tens of thousands, of their fellow colonists and attached adherents, are to a certain extent entrusted by the Great Head of the Church to their care and guidance, and that upon them and upon their deliberations and decisions it must upon a great measure depend, whether our church in this colony for the present and coming generations shall be prosperous and flourishing, or sinking and decaying. We are well assured from personal knowledge that the office bearers of the church are aware of the responsible situation in which they are placed, and anxious to do all they can for the prosperity of their flocks, they all find themselves entrusted with a solemn and momentous charge, in the centre of extensive spheres of usefulness, surrounded on all sides by numerous preaching stations and vacant districts soliciting their friendly assistance. They are fully convinced that no time should be lost in endeavouring to fill up our old and long established congregations with suitable and fixed pastors.

This is found by bitter experience to be an arduous and difficult work indeed, requiring much energy and activity on the part of our ministers, and much patience and self-denial from the people. But admitting that this object has been fully attained, there are thousands of our adherents scattered over the Province, remaining to be provided for. Believing that it is utterly impossible by the utmost exertions, for a small handful of clergymen to reach one half of the districts which ought to be visited, we think it would be highly expedient for the Synod of Nova Scotia at its ensuing meeting to solicit the colonial committee of the parent church to appoint a Gaelic deputation to spend five or six months in the most necessitous districts of the Province, and draw up a report of its proceedings for the information of the