

in the Province and advancing the progress of evangelical truth.

The Synod as usual appointed four quarterly collections to be made during the year, viz. —

1. For the French Canadian Missionary Society, on the 3rd Sabbath of July.
2. For the Buxton Mission and Synod Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of October.
3. For the Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland, on the 3rd Sabbath of January.
4. For the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of April.

Presbyteries were enjoined to see that these collections be not neglected.

A Committee was appointed to devise means for removing the debt affecting the Buxton Mission, and requested Mr. King to visit as many of the congregations of the Church as he may be able to overtake within the space of a few weeks, with the view of bringing the peculiar claims of the mission prominently before the people.

The proceedings of Synod were brought to a close at a late hour on Tuesday night.

NIGARA.—The congregation in this town have at length succeeded in completing their new Church. It was opened for divine service on the 12th ultimo. Rev. Messrs. John Scott, R. F. Burns, and D. Fraser, preached on the occasion. The attendance was full, and the collection amounted to about £18. The building is plain and unpretending, and although not expensively finished, is very creditable to the people. The greater part of the expence has been borne by the congregation themselves, and considering the smallness of their number, and the large contribution made at the time of the death of their late pastor, this fact is very creditable to them. They have shown themselves in this matter a liberal and zealous people. We are still more happy to understand that the new building is but an outward manifestation of a good work which God seems to be carrying on among the people. The number of Church members is steadily increasing, and we fondly trust that God is choosing among them many lively stones for his spiritual temple.

LEGEND OF THE PARIS POLYGLOTT.

BY REV. DR. BURNS.

The spring of 1815 found me busily employed at Edinburgh, and other parts of Scotland, in collecting books for the Library of our Theological College at Toronto. Among other friends who sent in their presents, Dr. Black, Professor of Biblical Criticism and Hermeneutics, in the New College of Edinburgh, announced to me his kind intentions of a valuable contribution, by the following letter:—

EDINBURGH, 26 ELDER STREET,
March 27, 1815.

MY DEAR SIR,—

As your time must at present be completely engrossed, I cannot think of intruding upon you further, than to request your acceptance of a copy of the Paris Polyglott for the Library that you are forming; and, to express my earnest prayer, that your labours in the Church of Christ may be abundantly blessed in the interesting field of exertion that you are about to occupy in a distant land.

Duly appreciating the value of the gift, I wrote a letter of warm acknowledgment, and requested the Dr. to get the book put under the charge of Mr. Jaffray, at the Free Church Rooms, and it would be sent by him to Glasgow, along with my other literary treasures. I had seventy chests of books with me in the *Erromanga*, and never doubted that, when I got to Toronto, and opened them, the eye of every spectator would rest with delighted satisfaction on the ten magnificent folios of the Paris Polyglott. What was my disappointment, when one chest after another was discussed, and no such article was to be found! I wrote to Dr. Black, announcing the disappointment, and asking, humbly and respectfully, his reasons for the change of mind which seemed to have taken place, for I never doubted that something of this nature had been the real cause of the non-appearance of the work. I rather blamed myself too, for not taking a little more care in seeing that a present of such unusual value should be safely put on the locomotive pathway to the west, with pretty decisive ground of hope, that no envious eye, and no kindly fear lest humble backwood's-men should become too proud on such an occasion, might operate in the way of "black mail," or the ancient "lifting." Not hearing from the worthy donor any more, I concealed my grief with all the philosophy I could command, and said little to any one—conscious all the while that the Library I had brought out, had lost its crowning attraction. Years have passed away, and the recollections of the present, hovering in the distance, had almost ceased from my mind, when, not many weeks ago, I received a letter from a much-esteemed relative in Glasgow, to the effect—that in a corner of the store, at the terminus of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at the latter city, there had long lain a mysterious chest, of prodigious weight and proportional size—from which the address had fallen—and whose ownership and destination were wholly unknown. A sale of "unclaimed goods" was made at the end of five years, but this venerable portly article seemed to awe down the temerity of the salesman; and, remarkable to tell, it escaped the stroke of his hammer. The cycle was passing on, and a like happy escape might not have been made again; when lo! the learned historian of the "Ten Years' Conflict," having got "inkling" some how or other, of the "great unknown," and looking through one of the "eyes" of history, calculated that the box must have run its course from the east, near the time I was prowling about in all directions in search of books. He intimated his suspicions to the friend who gave me the information, and that friend having given all proper security for the re-placing of the box, if it was not mine, and for payment of "thirty shillings sterling," for seven years "tenant occupancy," if it was—got liberty to open the box. It was a smaller edition of the "regalia" opening of the castle in 1818. On the lid being removed, the ten splendid volumes presented themselves, just as when placed in their order in March, 1845—the interstices filled up with a score or two of what may be called in the "battle of the books," "light infantry." An "illus-

trative note" was discovered, and the ownership placed beyond question. Notice was immediately sent to me, and my claim to the lost property was at once acknowledged. The proprietors of the railway generously waved the "rent" and "all dues;" and two weeks ago I had the singular happiness of seeing these interesting volumes in the full occupancy of their destined place of honor, in the Library of Knox's College. To Messrs. Bryce, McMurrich & Co., and their Correspondents in Glasgow, we are indebted for the free transmission of this valuable present across the great Atlantic. The book is in excellent order. No damage has it sustained by the long imprisonment; and those who desire to see a specimen of splendid typography and excellent paper and binding, two hundred years old, may have the pleasure at any time, by a call at the College, or at my house, where one volume is allowed to remain, in the meantime, as a specimen to occasional spectators.

Of the "Paris Polygl." Hartwell Horno gives the following account. "This edition, which is extremely magnificent, contains all that is inserted in the Complutensian and Antwerp Polyglotts, with the addition of a Syriac and Arabic version of the greatest part of the Old, and of the entire New Testament. The Samaritan version, was printed for the first time in this Polyglott—the expenses of which ruined the Editor, M. La Jay. The Hebrew text is that of the Antwerp Polyglott."

The work is accompanied with maps and tables, and engravings of ancient dresses, with sketches of sacred places and persons.

While the name of Dr. Alexander Black is associated with this splendid present to our Library, and while to him our best thanks are due, a grateful acknowledgment is also made to the three gentlemen who contributed the other books which accompanied the Polyglott—the Rev. John Jaffray—Andrew Nelson, Esq., of the Bank of Scotland, Glasgow—and Mr. William Pearson, Depository of the Edinburgh Bible Society.

Toronto, May 20, 1853.

REVIEW.

CHOICE TRACTS.—This is a series of Monthly Tracts, which was in operation for six years, issued by the Free Church of Scotland. Of these Tracts, thirty are Addresses on matters of doctrine, duty, or social interest; there is a second class consisting of Ecclesiastical Biographies of the Scottish Worthies, and extending from the Reformation to the Revolution Settlement. Thirteen of these mighty men of God, are thus introduced to the notice of the reader, including Patrick Hamilton, Wishart, Welsh, Melville, Livingstone, &c. There is also a third class of Free Church Biographies, embracing sketches of many of the departed Fathers of modern times.

* To this same gentleman I am indebted for fifty copies of the lately printed volume of the "Confession of Faith," with the other standards and authoritative documents of the Free Church of Scotland, as a present to the office-bearers and teachers of Sabbath Schools in Knox's congregation.