

# THE THEOLOGUE.

VOL. 3.—MARCH, 1892.—No. 3.

## Presbyterian College, Halifax.

*COLUMBA.—(Continued.)*

THE new comers' first buildings are such as the Stanley Explorers would extemporize at their African camping grounds, fragile huts, wooden palisades, or more firmly planted stockades; no solid masonry then as now, but long, low, wooden buildings—the veriest log shanties—or, at the outset not so stable even as that, but huts made of pliable branches of trees twisted in and out among some upright stakes like the hurdles of a sheep pen, a kitchen, a refectory, sleeping-rooms, a carpenter's shop, a smithy, all detached and of the rudest material; Columba's cottage on a rising knoll near by, two stories in height, with two attendants at the door-way awaiting orders, the scantiest accommodation for the rest, and their noble chieftain bending within his study over his precious MSS. or kneeling in prayer. Near by stood the church, the chief building, of wood, coated over with rushes to keep out the damp—plain, unadorned.

The buildings stood within a circular rampart of earth, taking in also the little God's acre to which, from time to time, the occupants of the quiet cells near by were consigned. Each cell was supplied with a straw pallet and a pillow. That of their illustrious chief contained a table, a chair, an ink stand, a few MSS., a bare flag for a bed, a stone for a pillow: this last when he rested from his labors deposited on his grave, stood long there, his only monument. Without the rampart a barn, a kiln, a mill, cowhouses, etc., and in the offing near by a small fleet of boats ready for service. Their bill of fare was eggs, fish, seal's flesh, barley bread and milk, on ordinary days; and on Sabbaths or Feastedays, or when a casual visitor arrived, the extra luxury of mutton and occasionally beef.