

of life abundantly, and spread the blessings of the salvation of a glorified Redeemer extensively and beneficially amongst them; and that in the end you may find the fruits of your labours to be many souls won to Christ, and who with you shall inherit the joy of the redeemed above to all eternity.

Mr. Barclay thus acknowledged the pleasing gift.

Most sincerely do I thank you, and the other ladies of St. Andrew's Church in whose name you address me, for the very handsome gift which has just been presented for my acceptance. That gift I value not so much for its actual worth—although that is not inconsiderable—as on account of the kindly feeling evinced towards me in its bestowal, and the expression of the personal regard of the donors which accompanies it. Communicated too at a time when it had pleased God that I should be temporarily laid aside by indisposition from the active discharge of my official duties, I feel all the more sensibly this proof of the kindness of those whose friendly greeting thus meets me, as, in the good providence of God, I am about to resume my place in the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church.

While the motives and aids of the Christian ministry flow from a higher than any earthly source, yet the treasure is in earthen vessels, and to the ministering servants of Christ, entrusted with the high privilege and sacred duty of breaking the bread of life to those committed to their care, no small encouragement (of a kind not to be disregarded) flows from the assurance of sympathy with them in their work on the part of those to whom they minister in holy things. Such encouragement I desire to draw from the favourable and friendly acknowledgement of my humble services as their pastor, which the ladies of St. Andrew's Church have been pleased to convey to me.

Praying that the Great Head of the Church may greatly prosper His own work amongst us, and that His abundant blessing may ever rest upon all the families belonging to the congregation over which I have the honour to preside,

I remain

Yours very sincerely,
JOHN BARCLAY.

THE BATHURST PRESBYTERY.

The Bathurst Presbytery met on Wednesday, the 10th January last, at Ottawa, formerly Bytown.

The business on this occasion was chiefly of a routine character, with the exception of an important action taken in reference to the Hon. Dr. Rolph's new Marriage Bill, which the Government intend to bring forward on an early day. It is the design of this Bill to extend the solemnization of marriage to laymen, and that in a form calculated to give every facility to loose and hasty marriages. But the most obnoxious feature of the Bill is its setting forth of marriage to be merely a civil contract, and so denuding it entirely of its religious character.

The Presbytery agreed to memorialize, and to recommend to all the sessions within their bounds to memorialize the three branches of the Legislature in the following terms:—

To His Excellency, Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., in Council.

The Memorial of the Presbytery of Bathurst, of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland,

Humbly Showeth:—

That your memorialists view with alarm and apprehension the intention of the Government to introduce a new Marriage Bill, which in their opinion is unsound in principle and dangerous in practice, inasmuch as it sets forth that marriage is a civil contract and nothing more, and provides that it may be celebrated by laymen without any regard to its religious character.

That your memorialists regard marriage not only as a civil contract but as a Divine ordinance, that is, a social act accompanied by religious services, and accordingly believe that it is properly solemnized only by a Minister of the Gospel.

That the tendency of the proposed law will be to bring down the marriage ceremony from the solemn position which it has ever held in the Church of Christ to the level of a common transaction, and to deprive it of the sacredness which properly belongs to it, as well as the religious significance which the Scriptures of Divine truth attach to it.

That the conjugal union is so important to the parties concerned, as well as to the State, that it requires all the sanctions and supports which Religion can give to it; but in the event of making that engagement, on which the Divine blessing is so much needed, to be managed by laymen, it may be in some instances, of no creed and no character, and proclaiming by law that marriage is a civil contract and nothing more, your memorialists will have reason to fear that the interests of piety, the purity of families and the well-being of the state will seriously suffer.

That in view of these premises your memorialists entreat Your Excellency that the Bill in question do not pass into law, and, as in duty bound, they shall ever pray.

Signed in name and by authority of the Presbytery,

DUNCAN MORRISON,
Moderator.

Sessions disposed to memorialize the Government in reference to this Bill will observe to forward one to each branch of the Legislature, addressing the first, To the Honorable, the Legislative Council of Canada in Parliament assembled; the second, To the Honorable, the Legislative Assembly of Canada in Parliament assembled; the third, as above. Parliament meet on the 23rd February; and it would be well for parties, intending to memorialize, to do so with as little delay as possible.

The lady, who met her death by the late collision upon the Midland Railway, was the widow of the Rev. John Robertson, a clergyman of the Established Church of Scotland. She was also sister to the wife of Dr. Farquharson, an eminent physician at Edinburgh.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION—PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—I am sorry that, in consequence of the small number of Students in the Divinity classes this year, the duty of addressing you devolves upon me. I am conscious of my inability to do justice to the duty which I have come here to perform, whilst at the same time I appreciate the honour which you have conferred upon me in calling me to preside over this Association. I am willing to undertake to perform it, if in this way I may be the humble instrument of advancing the cause of our common Master. It may be thought that, as poor students, we can do but little in a cause involving so much labour, and requiring so great means. In the estimation of the world and the men of the world this would be true. But the wisdom of God has heretofore wrought through the most unlikely means. It was from the despised Babe, born in a stable, and cradled in a manger, that the great Regenerator of mankind arose, who, as the Physician of souls, has poured the balm of consolation into many an oppressed and wounded spirit. It was by the despised and illiterate fishermen of Galilee that the Truth was spread from nation to nation,—that it was first fearlessly proclaimed before prince and peasant with an eloquence, an earnestness, a devotion such as the world had never before witnessed, though imprisonments, dangers, scourgings and death met them on every side. The kings of the earth, the mighty, the learned were not selected for this purpose, "that the glory of the excellency might be seen to be of God." The Babe of Bethlehem was "Immanuel, God with us." The fishermen of Galilee have left us records the most precious, the most cheering that have ever been circulated over our sin-cursed earth, revealing the words and actions of Him who spoke and acted as never man did, and delineating with truthfulness, which has annoyed and disconcerted infidels of every age, their opinions, feelings, prejudices and misconceptions of the Messiah's kingdom, until finally the free blaze of Divine truth shone around them by the enlightenment and outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and by God's implanting in their hearts His all-subduing grace. No one by worldly wisdom could have anticipated the changes that followed beginnings so humble. The little spring rising on the mountain's side, concealed from every human eye, has become the mighty stream that has flowed over and fertilized more or less every country in the world. It has swept over cities which were the abode of poets, and in which the greatest philosophers delivered their maxims of divine wisdom, falsely so called. Of these not a vestige can be discovered, or, if so, rubbish only marks the site of their former magnificence. Dynasties have fallen by this power, new ones have been established. Idolatry has been overturned;