

gratifying fact that, with the exception of one congregation which had only collected for five schemes, all the congregations within the bounds had collected for all of the six schemes. The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. W. H. Gray on the Education and Colonial Schemes; by the Rev. Maxwell Nicholson on the Home Mission and Endowment Schemes; and by the Rev. Dr. Paul on the India Mission and Jewish Mission Schemes.

The Rev. Dr. McTaggart of Greyfriars, Aberdeen, has transmitted £72, 7s. 6d. — £36, 3s. 9d. each to the Colonial and Jewish Missions—being "part of the sum left by the late Mr. Harvey of Boddlestone, to the Rev. Dr. Pirie, for distribution among Foreign Missions."

## THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

### Australia.

The Colonial committee have now received a communication from the Rev. William Purves, the Delegate who was sometime ago sent to this country, by the Synod of Australia, for the purpose of obtaining ministers to supply the spiritual destitution existing in many parts of the colony; and with whose assistance, the committee were enabled to send out seven ministers to Australia, previous to the last General Assembly.

In reference to these appointments, Mr. Purves in his letter expresses his conviction that, on taking a calm and extended view of all the transactions and events connected with his mission to this country, and the introduction of the ministers sent out by the committee, into the colonial field, the result, so far as it has yet been seen, is such as every friend of the Church both here and in the colony, must see reason to rejoice in. Everything has not gone just as could have been wished; but considering the number of interests that were concerned, and the varied feelings and views of so many different persons, as well as the comparative magnitude of the undertaking itself, the success which, in the good providence of God, has attended the efforts made, is as great as could have been reasonably expected.

We have great pleasure in inserting the rejoined account of the reception of Mr. Purves in the Synod of New South Wales, after his return from this country. It is taken from the printed minutes of the meeting of Synod, held on 26th October, 1854.

The Rev. Wm. Purves, who was sent by the Synod as their delegate to the Church of Scotland, in 1852, with a view to procure additional ministers for the colony, and to advocate the general interests of the Colonial Church in the Mother Country, gave a detailed and very interesting account of his mission, mentioning the various steps which had been taken by him in connection with the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, and the valuable assistance which he had received from that venerable body, who took the warmest interest in the prosperity of our church, and most cordially co-operated with our delegate in carrying out the instructions of the Synod.

The Synod having heard with great satisfaction the statement of the Rev. Wm. Purves, on the subject of his late mission to Great Britain, which, by the blessing of God, had

been so eminently crowned with success, unanimously resolved to record their deep sense of gratitude to Almighty God for having graciously preserved their brother during his absence; for having strengthened and sustained him in his arduous undertaking, and restored him in health and in safety to the sphere of his former labours, after the successful termination of his mission, from which the most beneficial results might be anticipated. The Synod unanimously expressed their entire satisfaction and approval of Mr. Purves' conduct, and of the skill and prudence which he had displayed in the management of the delicate and important business which had been entrusted to him; and resolved to record their grateful acknowledgement of the eminent services rendered by their delegate to the Colonial Church. The Moderator was then instructed to convey to Mr. Purves the cordial thanks of the Synod, which was accordingly done.

### British North America.

We sincerely trust that the very touching appeal contained in the subjoined Bond, will stir up some of our liege subjects having a knowledge of Gaelic, to offer their services to supply the great spiritual destitution which has so long prevailed in this part of the colonial field.—*H. & P. Miss. Record.*

We, the undersigned, being managers for the congregation of the West Branch and East River, in the county of Pictou, Nova Scotia, and authorized to act for said congregation, beg humbly, but most earnestly to bring under the notice of your Committee, the painful destitution of which, for many years, we have had to complain.

For the long period of eleven years we have been without a pastor. A generation is rising among us, and approaching manhood, who never had the privilege of seeing the face of a minister of Christ whom they could call their pastor. We are still unbroken, and well able adequately to maintain a clergyman; but if left further, for any length of time, situated as we are, we must, and almost of necessity, be scattered, and many will leave the Church of their fathers, and thus render it impossible for those who might still cling to her to support the ordinances of religion.

It is painful to be driven from the Church to which, by the strongest possible ties, we have been and are attached—in which our fathers worshipped their God, and received the consolation of religion through life and in death.

Often and again we appealed to the Church of Scotland for aid, but for eleven years all our appeals have been in vain; we blame not the Church—but we must repeat and urge our wants on her attention. We trust we shall not be disregarded.

We now entreat of your Committee to assist us in our difficulties; and we do so with all the earnestness of men who will not be driven from our beloved Church while any hope remains; and with all the confidence, too, of men who are fully persuaded that we are addressing faithful and affectionate ministers of Christ, who can and do feel for us, and are willing to send us assistance.

In order to satisfy your Committee that we are able and willing to meet any responsibility which the enjoyment of the ordinances of religion may devolve upon us, and that we wish not to be to any extent a burden on your funds, we hereby bind and oblige ourselves, as managers of the above congregation, jointly and

severally, to refund to you whatever amount may be necessary as passage-money for any Gaelic minister you may select and send to the district of Pictou; and we further promise to pay to such minister the yearly stipend of £150 currency, until such time as he may choose a congregation, and be regularly settled among them.

This, in our humble opinion, must be more agreeable to any minister purposing to come to this country, than to receive a regular call while at home and ignorant of localities and their comparative desirableness. It is certain our wide destitution and many vacancies, render it a painful certainty that any minister coming among us will have but too many congregations to choose from.

PETER CAMPBELL.  
JOHN GRAY.  
DUNCAN McDONALD.  
HUGH FRASER  
JOHN FORBES.  
WILLIAM CHISHOLM.

I am intimately acquainted with the above individuals, and I can with utmost confidence assert, that they are thoroughly honest men, and in circumstances enabling them fully to meet the above responsibilities.

ALEXANDER MACLEAN,  
Minister of West River and Gairloch.

### Presbytery of Hamilton.

This presbytery met in Hamilton on the 9th of May, and was engaged till a late hour in considering and transacting several important items of business.

The statistical returns required by the Synod to be sent up to its next meeting were called for, and were given in by all the ministers present.

It was agreed to transmit to the Colonial Committee an urgent application for a Missionary to be sent out on the same terms as several have recently been sent out to the other colonies, viz. that a salary of £150 sterling shall be guaranteed him by the Committee, the Presbytery promising to pay £100 currency of this sum. Mr. Macdonnell was instructed to prepare a letter to the Committee, on this subject.

The Presbytery allowed six weeks leave of absence from his congregation to Mr. Grigor, on account of his ill health, and Messrs. Macdonnell, Gibson and Thom were created to supply his pulpit on three Sabbaths during the vacancy. Mr. Macdonnell was appointed to preach in Nelson and Watford on the 20th, and various appointments of Missionary labour were made for Messrs. Mowat, Gibson, Burnett, W. McKwen, and J. McKwen.

The Presbytery resolved to report to the Synod its disapproval of the Act ancient Retired Ministers, and its approval generally of the form of process for the settlement of Ministers.

Having heard a statement from Dr. Skinner, in reference to the expenses incurred by his Congregation in carrying on the recent Chancery suit for the recovery of their property, the Presbytery appointed a Committee to confer with Dr. Skinner, with a view of bringing before the Synod the claims of his congregation on the sympathy and assistance of the Church.

After considering the excuses given by those absent from the last meeting for their non-attendance, examining the Session Records, making up the Presbytery Roll, &c., the Presbytery appointed a special meeting to be held in Hamilton on the 28th inst., in reference to the congregation at Ancaster.—*Presbyterian.*