

Induction of the Rev. Thomas Jardine.

THE Presbytery of Halifax met according to appointment, in Argyle Street Chapel, on the 12th ult., for the purpose of inducting Rev. THOMAS JARDINE as collegiate minister of St. Matthew's church and congregation. It having been found that all the preliminary steps towards the induction of Mr. Jardine had been gone through according to the ancient rule and practice of the Church of Scotland the Rev. George Boyd the Moderator proceeded to the pulpit, and having preached an appropriate discourse from 2 Cor. iii. 18, thereafter put the usual questions to Mr. Jardine, and on his acceptance of the charge, formally admitted him to all the rights and privileges of a settled minister of that congregation.

Rev. Mr. Scott then addressed the minister and people on their relative connection and respective duties.

We beg to congratulate the people of St. Matthew's on the choice they have made, and feel confident that Mr. Jardine will fully justify the high opinion that has been formed of him as an able and zealous minister of the gospel. And we doubt not that he will also be found to extend his views and exert his influence beyond his own congregation, and be ready to take an active part in every scheme that has for its end the moral and spiritual improvement of the people of this city and Province.

University Reform.

THE improvement of our universities has already for many months occupied public attention, and now, I think, something will be done. A most important meeting, which will rejoice the heart of every Scotchman, was held last week in Edinburgh. Lord Campbell, the Lord Chief-Justice of England presided, and delivered a most patriotic speech. The various resolutions, which were adopted, referred to an increase of the salaries of the professors, the subdivision of professorial labour by the aid of assistants, the erection of new chairs, as for Political Economy, an enhancement of the value of degrees by raising the standard of examination, and recognizing graduates as part of the Universities &c. All these propositions are reasonable and necessary, and, if carried out by the help of public money, will greatly invigorate our general educational institutions. The first thing which directed attention to their inadequacy was the result of the competitive trials for civil appointments to India. Scotch scholarship was found to be wanting. However, we trust this defect is on the fair way of being removed; and we feel that a deep debt of gratitude is due to Professor Blackie above all for having held the question so inde-

fatigably and undauntedly before the eyes of our public men.—*Cor. of Presbyterian.*

Collection for the Widows' Fund.

A desire has been felt and manifested among the office-bearers of our Church for several years past, to make an effort, if possible, to establish a Widow's Fund within the bounds of our Synod. At the last meeting of the Synod the subject was taken up in an earnest and practical manner, and a collection was appointed to be made in all the churches and preaching stations within the bounds in aid of such a Fund, on the first Sabbath of the month of April, 1858. The Moderator of the Synod was also enjoined to give notice of this collection, and advocate the claims of this most desirable object in the columns of the Record in the preceding month of March. We have waited anxiously till the hour of publication for this important document, which has not yet arrived. As we could not but feel sorry should the Fund suffer, we have considered ourselves bound by the instructions of the Synod to give the intimation that this collection is appointed to be made on the first Sabbath of April, leaving the Ministers of the different congregations to advocate the cause as they may think proper.

Union of Presbyterians.

WE observe that a spirited and lengthened correspondence is now carried on in New Brunswick on this exciting subject, between the Rev. Mr. Murray, of Moncton, on the part of the Church of Scotland, and Rev. Mr. Ferrie on the part of the Free Church. Such a union, if we may judge of the sentiments of these two bodies of Christians, from the views and opinions of the correspondents in this controversy, is still far distant. Both of these gentlemen have taken up antagonistic positions, from which, we are told, they are not likely to recede. If the Free Church advocate thinks that such a consummation is soon to be accomplished, Mr. Murray does not appear to be very sanguine of success:

"I have to confess," says he in his last letter in the Colonial Presbyterian, "that I am not now so sanguine about the desirableness of a union as when first I directed my attention to the subject, as I can foresee, that, unless there is the utmost candour and fairness on both sides, there will be a continued tendency to take advantage of each other, and that thus there will be more jealousy and bad feeling between us than there is now. I am sorry to say that what I have seen of the Free Church party, more especially lately, has not much impressed me with the honourable nature of their dealings. It seems very strange that, at the very time we are discussing the subject of a union, a letter

should appear in the *Colonial Presbyterian*, last week, which could have no other design than, if possible, to break up one of our congregations, and still stranger that the gentleman, from whose letter the communication cites, should, after giving out, every-where, that his only object was to preach the gospel, and who professed himself as most unwilling to interfere with the said congregation, should show so plainly, by this letter, as quoted by Mr. Ferrie, that he has been acting with guile. I must say, after such conduct from one whom I have been accustomed to respect, I begin to be suspicious of the party altogether, and to fear that there is some truth in what has been alleged regarding them, that they act too much on the jesuitical motto, that everything is lawful which will have the effect of enlarging the boundaries of the Free Church. I am very reluctant to believe this, but facts are ugly things to get over, and I think, if for no other reason one might begin to doubt of the soundness of principles which make the party careless, whether, for the sake of advancing these principles, or rather I should say bringing men externally within the pale of the church, they accomplish this by honourable or dishonourable means, or do serious injury to the cause of Christ otherwise."

WE have received a very able communication from a correspondent in Pictou, on the State and Prospects of our Church in this Colony, which will appear in our next number.

EDINBURGH BIBLE SOCIETY.—The number of Bibles and Testaments issued from the depositary of this society during the year, 1857, 61,782; 6,489 Gaelic Bibles and Testaments have been supplied to the Highlands, and to Highlanders who have emigrated to the colonies; 16,593 copies of English Scriptures have been distributed in Ireland, and 4,110 Bibles and Testaments have been sent to Australia, New Zealand, and British America. About 1500 copies of the French Scriptures have been circulated by colporteurs during the year.

THE BIBLE IN INDIA.—The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, have opened a special fund for Bibles in India. They have recently voted for North India 3406 copies of the scriptures in various languages, 1000 reams of printing paper, £100 in money for printing and circulating the same scriptures, besides forwarding £1500 to the Calcutta Auxiliary, to meet an urgent appeal.

THE LONDON GAZETTE announces that the Queen has appointed the Rev. Norman McLeod minister in the Barony of Glage to be one of Her Majesty's Chaplains in ordinary in the room of the Very Rev. J. Macfarlan, deceased.

Proceedings of the Colonial Committee

By recent and reliable intelligence from Scotland we are apprised that the General Assembly's Colonial Committee, already so favourably