

# THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THE ADJOINING PROVINCES.

AUGUST, 1860.

"I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

### Sermon,

By the Rev. A. Maclean, A. M., Belfast, P. E. I., preached at the opening of the Synod at Pictou, on Wednesday, 27th June, 1860, and published by request.

MATT. II. 29.—"Learn of me."

He spoke as never man did, and as certainly there appeared throughout his whole life and conversation a perfection of rectitude which no other character among men presented, who could employ this language in its full and absolute sense. The best and the holiest of men must pause when they come to this. Even the great Apostle of the Gentiles himself could not go further than—"Be ye followers of me, as I am of the Lord Jesus." When the most faithful and devoted servants of Christ look back and trace onwards the footprints of their steps, many things meet their eye, which they would not wish others to imitate. Well can each of them remember the feelings of unbelief and distrust in God, which frequently depressed their spirits. How many the hours when a rebellious murmuring arose within, and struggled hard to obtain the ascendancy. How many the feelings of impatience under injuries, and when suffering the chastisement of affliction; and how many the words spoken, and the actions done, which they now recall with sorrow! Their earnest desire is, not that others would follow their steps, in these things, and realize the same experience, but, on the contrary, they wish and pray that all their brethren may carefully avoid the errors and the imperfections which not unfrequently mingled with their own best efforts. Jesus alone could say, without any qualification, "Learn of me;" and like His forerunner, all

His servants must be careful that in every message they deliver, and in every direction and encouragement they present, their aim shall be to bring their fellow sinners to behold the Lamb of God. The highest proofs of their faithfulness, and what entitle them to the confidence and the esteem of their hearers are, that they themselves are learning of Christ; and they teach aright, and can be listened to with profit, only when presenting Him, in all His sufficiency and fullness, and beseeching sinners to come and obtain from Him deliverance from sin and from death. They must press upon the attention of men, not their own, but the will of Christ. They must not only proclaim that there is salvation in no other, and that by faith in His death and resurrection alone, man may approach God with acceptance; the claims on the attention of his professed people to all His precepts, arising from His gracious and merciful interposition, must also be enforced with all faithful earnestness. The ambassadors of Christ are not faithful to their Master, nor to the immortal souls committed to their care, unless they unfold his will, not only as to the way in which the guilty soul may be acquitted and justified, but likewise regarding the conduct and manner of life enjoined on all who express their belief in what the love of God effected for a perishing world. That man preaches not Christ, who, although he may present the great and saving doctrines of revelation, neglects to impress on the minds of men the pure and heavenly precepts there contained, and which, with the awful authority of the Most High, call upon every soul of man to render obedience. If Christ has condescended to give to men rules of