

kind of matting from prepared pandanus leaf. This we stuffen by a lining of paper, pasted on with arrowroot, and then cut it up into the proper shape, and make them up, lining them with coloured muslin, and trimming them with ribbons when we have them; when we have not ribbons, we trim them with muslin. These bonnets improve the appearance of the women very much. Bonnet wire is, therefore an article of which we use a great deal; and if any can spare a few old ribbons, or ribbons out of fashion, they will be gladly received.

Shoes and stockings are not required by the natives. They will come to use them by and by, but not till they can buy them themselves. Waterproofs, glazed caps, and all clothes of that kind, are useless in our climate. The heat melts the glazing, and the cloth sticks together, and becomes useless.

For some years past, we have ceased to clothe the general public. They sell their produce to vessels and to the trading establishments on the island, and buy clothing for themselves. We have confined ourselves to the clothing of our teachers and their families, the natives living with us, and the native agency employed in the mission, either in teaching or working; and their clothing, in whole or in part, is the only remuneration they receive for their labours. This is the whole expense incurred by the mission for native agency, and the mission boxes have fully met this hitherto.

Some have asked, would half worn clothes do for the mission boxes? The expense of freight to the Hebrides is so much, that we have not thought it advisable to ask for half-worn clothes from home; besides, half-worn clothes, woollen especially, soon become so mouldy, if they are detained long on the voyage, that the profit is very little. We have got a number of boxes from New Zealand of this kind, as well as of new cloth, and they have been valuable, because the voyage is short, and, in general, they have come free of expense. But in the present case we shall be taking the boxes with ourselves, and the expenses will be less. The island too, has been so desolated by the sickness and the hurricane, that the natives will have little to sell for a year or two; and there will be so much mission work to be done to get the ruins repaired, that it will be necessary to be more liberal with clothing for some time, to encourage the natives in their labours in behalf of the mission. On this account, both men and women's half-worn clothing will be very acceptable, and may be collected, as well as new. Half-worn woollen shawls and plaids pack into little bulk, and are very useful. If half-worn clothes are well cleaned, they will go into less bulk, and keep better. It would be better, however, to pack them by themselves, and not to mix them with the new.

JESSIE INGLIS.

OUR CHURCH NEWS.

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Presbytery of Halifax met in Chalmers Church, on Wednesday the 12th day of February last. There were present the Rev. Wm. Duff, Moderator, Professor King, John L. Murdoch, P. G. McGregor, John Cameron, Wm. Murray, Professor McKnight, Donald McMillan, and John Morton, Ministers, and Messrs. Alex. James, Jas. Farquhar, and Francis W. George, Ruling Elders.

In reply to his citation the Rev. John Sprott addressed an explanatory and exculpatory letter to the Presbytery.—The citation was renewed.

On motion, it was agreed that the remit of Synod in reference to the Ordination of Elders and Deacons be taken up.

Alexander James, Esq., opened the discussion and offered the following resolution on the subject. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Presbytery, Ordination of religious office-bearers is rightfully the act of the Presbytery, either directly or by appointment in special cases, and that in all ordinary cases it should be performed by Prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery.