

is that the Dominion Government will provide seed wheat and oats to enable the farmers to put in a crop next spring. Without this help there is a certainty of a famine in one district in the winter of 1885-86. The bulk of farming population are in impoverished circumstances, they owe money which they cannot pay, and many of them are forced to kill their cattle to provide food and necessaries for their families to carry them over the winter.

In spite of this we are glad to see that the "High School" at Prince Albert is now an accomplished fact. Messrs. McWilliam and Sinclair have taken hold of the new enterprise and are meeting with considerable favour. The local papers speak of the proposed school and the kindly aid promised by our Church in most flattering terms.

I have, Mr. Editor, extended these remarks beyond what I intended. In closing let me express the hope that the wealthier members of our Church will avail themselves of the privilege now offered, of giving liberally to the funds of the Home Mission Committee, that the many calls made upon us, not only by the newer provinces, but by Ontario and Quebec may be promptly met. Commerce is in many places far from prosperous, but our Church has the means to meet all our requirements if only there is the heart to give. *Contributions* for Augmentation and Home Missions should be in the hands of Dr. Reid by the 15th day of March.—WILLIAM COCHRANE, *Convener*.

Editorial Jottings.

ACROSS THE BORDER.

FROM Manchester to Carlisle, as the crow flies, is a three hours journey by rail. The first half of it is through a flat country, densely peopled with colliers, cotton-spinners and machinists. There are a number of large towns—Wigan, Preston, Lancaster, &c., packed full of artisans, living in dingy brick houses with red-tile roofs, and contributing their daily quota to the wealth of nations, while they themselves eke out a scanty livelihood. We pass them all by with the complacent remark, that "one half of the world does not know how the other half lives." The landscape changes at Kendal—the gate of "the Lake country." Leav-

ing the rail, and making a slight detour to the west, we skim the surface of Windermere in a steam gondola, spend a night at Ambleside, do homage at the tomb of Wordsworth in the old graveyard at Grasmere, drive round Derwentwater, have a look at Southey's monument in Keswick Church, get a glimpse of Skiddaw, and pick up the train again at Penrith, satisfied that we have seen the most charming scenery in England.

Carlisle is on the English side of the border. It was a place of renown when the Scotch and English were not as good friends as they are now. After the union of 1707, which the Northerners bewailed, "believing that the glory of their country had departed forever," Carlisle settled down into a quiet provincial town, scarcely thought of except by Insurance companies, who for a hundred years have consulted the "Carlisle Tables" in calculating the average duration of human life. But the railway, which has effected such marvellous changes all over the world, touched Carlisle with its magic wand and awakened it into life again. It is now a large manufacturing town. Two of the old landmarks remain—the Cathedral and Castle. York, Durham and Chester excepted, there is no finer ecclesiastical edifice in the north of England than Carlisle cathedral. Only a portion of the original structure remains, and that has probably lost much in the process of restoration, but it is still an imposing edifice, and the interior is exceedingly beautiful. And one cannot enter the old Gothic gate of the Castle without thinking of the exploits of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, not to speak of the dramatic interest given to those crumbling towers and battlements by Sir Walter Scott. It was as Dean of Carlisle that the late Archibald Tait Campbell, the first Scottish Primate of all England, began his ministry, and developed those qualities which created for the office which he was afterwards to fill new dignity, as "the acknowledged head of English-speaking Christendom." Resuming our journey, we descend into the fertile plains of Eskdale, Annandale and Liddeldale, in what used to be designated *Galloway*, a district full of historic interest. The aborigines were of Celtic origin, as the name seems to imply, and were noted for their warlike propensities. It was one of the earliest Roman