

The Rev. Francis Nicol.

The numerous friends of the Rev. Francis Nicol who remember his labours, as Missionary of the Church of Scotland, in connection with the congregations of St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's churches in this city, previous to his settlement in Newfoundland, will be glad to learn that in resigning his late charge with the view of returning to Scotland, he carries with him the esteem of his congregation as evinced by the address, which, with his reply, we have great pleasure in giving below. The Rev. Gentleman and his family left St. John's on the 21st July, in the brig Ann Johnston. Mr. Nicol, had only returned from attending a meeting of the Synod at Charlottetown, where we had the pleasure of meeting him and his lady who is a native of P. E. Island. Mr. Nicol leaves a host of friends behind him, who wish him success in whatever sphere it may please Providence to place him.

TO THE REV. FRANCIS NICOL.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—

On the eve of your departure for your native land, permit us the Office Bearers and Members of the Congregation of St. Andrew's Church in this town, in connection with the Church of Scotland, to express to you our sincere regard for your character, and our sense of the able and faithful manner in which you have discharged the duties of Minister of our Church during the past seven years.

Far removed from the land of our Fathers, we are deeply sensible of the lasting benefits conferred on the people of Scotland by the National Church, and in you we recognize a representative of that Church, who has manifested an earnest desire to promote her cause in this Island, while at the same time it has been your endeavor to cultivate charity towards the members of other Christian denominations.

The Church of Scotland has long recognized the importance of carefully educating her rising youth, and in this respect, while we have been desirous of following in her footsteps, we would thankfully acknowledge your zeal and judgment in watching over the School, in connection with St. Andrew's Church.

That Almighty God may abundantly bless your labours in this place, and that His Providence may watch over yourself, Mrs. Nicol, and family; and that you may be preserved for many years of usefulness in His Church on earth, is the earnest prayer of,

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your most attached friends.

[Numerously signed by Office Bearers and Members of St. Andrew's Congregation.]

St. John's, Newfoundland,

20th July, 1858.

REPLY:

I thank you most sincerely for this kind expression of your esteem and sympathy.

For the few years during which it has been my privilege to minister to the Congregation of St. Andrew's Church, it has been my earnest wish and endeavor to maintain with fidelity the position I have occupied as a Minister of the Church of Scotland, and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am sensible of many defects in this Ministry, but I look to God for forgiveness, and humbly pray that the feeble instrumentality He has employed may prove to be not without effect in advancing the kingdom of His Son.

The important cause of Education no Church or Minister can neglect without consequences most injurious to religion and the best interests of society; I have therefore in common with you, sought to render the means which God has placed in our hands efficient, and a ben-fit not only to our families, but to the general community; and it is a source of great pleasure to me to leave you in possession of so large and flourishing a School.

I trust that your prayer to the Almighty for myself and family may be graciously answered; and that though separated on earth, we may meet at last in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May God grant to you as a Church and people, all prosperity—may He water His ordinances that fruit may spring up abundantly unto everlasting life. The Lord bless you, and keep you—The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you—The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

As I happen to be called away so very suddenly upon my return from the Annual Meeting of Synod, I hope my friends will be kind enough to remember that it was quite impossible for me to wait upon them all personally during the few hours at my command.

Thanking you warmly for the generous confidence you have always reposed in me, and for the many acts of kindness which my family and myself have received at your hands; and commending you to the gracious care of the Most High,

I remain,

In bonds of the Gospel,

Yours affectionately and always,

To FRANCIS NICOL,
The Office Bearers and Members of
St. Andrew's Church Congregation.

The Presbyterians of Kandy, Ceylon.

We have been requested to give publicity to the following proceedings of a meeting held at Kandy:—

A meeting of subscribers on behalf of a movement for procuring an additional Scots clergyman for the Kandian Provinces was held in the Kandy Scots Church on the 26th June.

Present,—Rev. G. W. Sprott, Messrs. R. B. Tytler, J. Gavin, A. H. Baillie, J. Ingleton, J. Anderson, E. Blacklaw, W. Gibbon, Milne, W. Rose, J. Walker, T. Berwick, D. Q. A., &c.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Mr. Sprott was called to the chair, and Mr. Berwick was requested to act as secretary.

Mr. Sprott then addressed the meeting as follows:

Gentlemen, you are aware that the object of our meeting to-day is to take steps for the purpose of securing another Scots clergyman for the Kandian Provinces. That there is need of such an addition I think you will all agree with me, for I believe there is no other religious denomination in the island so inadequately supplied with clergymen, in proportion to the

number of its adherents. While a large number of the European population are Scotsmen, there are only two Scots clergymen. Great numbers of our people have no opportunity of engaging in public worship on the Sabbath; while in cases of illness or necessary absence from the island there is no provision for religious ordinances at the two principal stations, Colombo and Kandy, and the consequence is, that both their congregations have at different times been left to languish away.

Gentlemen, I think this is a very unsatisfactory position to be in as a Church, and that we should try to better it. While I look with the greatest charity upon other denominations of Christians, and wish them God speed, I do not pretend to be indifferent to our own.

I think that, as a Church, we have no right whatever to be satisfied until our fellow Churchmen are provided with religious instruction according to the usages to which they have been accustomed. To this end I think it my duty to labor, in spite of whatever discouragements may arise, and thankful for every encouragement I may meet with. I am impelled to it on patriotic grounds, not to speak of higher things, for believing that the national type of religion is the highest expression of the life and worth of a people, I lament anything that impairs its strength and efficiency, wherever it is worth preserving, and I think our national religion, which has had so much to do with the welfare of Scotland and of Scotsmen, is worth preserving, and ought to be preserved at home and abroad, and wherever Scotsmen wander.

I am impelled to it on religious grounds, because I think it a sacred duty to provide with their own religious ordinances the destitute people of our own Church, many of whom are naturally so prepossessed in favor of their own doctrines and forms that they are not so likely to be benefitted by any other, and all of whom can be best approached through those channels which are endeared to them by early training and the associations of the past. I am impelled to it on religious grounds, because I think it would be for the good, temporal and eternal, of many young Scotsmen in the jungle to be frequently visited by their clergymen; because I wish to see our Church in this island fully equipped, and strengthened by the interest and support of all her children, and becoming a Missionary Church, as every Church in a heathen land ought to be; and because I believe that our doctrines, and simple spiritual worship of God, are agreeable to the will of God, as revealed in his Holy Word.

Gentlemen, I am anxious to do what I can, but I know that I can do very little myself, and I do most earnestly ask your aid and co-operation. I am happy to be able to say that the movement in connection with which we are now met has been so far successful. The subscription paper, which you have all seen,