

PRE-BYTERIAN CHURCH AT FINGAL.

THE Presbyterian Church at Fingal has been lately furnished with an excellent Bell. This useful article has been secured by the zeal and efforts of Mr. Robert Blackwood, a member of the Congregation, who has shown, from the beginning, a deep interest in the Church and its equipment. The congregation feels indebted to Mr. Blackwood, not only for his general liberality, but, more especially, for his present personal efforts in supplying the Church with such a valuable bell, the want of which has long been felt, and in the use of which all are now rejoicing; and they hope that he will be long spared, prospered both temporally and spiritually, and enabled to continue the same interest and liberality towards the cause of God which is only worthy of the life and efforts of man. Were there found among our people more men like-minded, many of our Churches would not contrast, so unfavorably with the advanced state of the country and the comfortable dwellings of the inhabitants. Some, indeed, who possess the means and could do much if they were willing, speak of Churches, and of manses, of ministers as if they thought it essential to religion that meanness, and poverty, and want should be their most prominent characteristics. Such might satisfy the ghost of religion, a shadow without substance, a name without reality. But surely no enlightened Christian, whose sympathies are in a right state, and whose "accuses" are exercised by the word of God to discern both good and evil, can countenance such views. If they are expressed from zeal, assuredly such zeal deserves the name of extraordinary; for it is beyond that which is written. It is not asserted that nothing but vital godliness is sufficient to build and furnish respectable and comfortable houses for the worship of God. Pride, formality, hypocrisy, and even vanity might do the same thing, and if there should be any allowance for their exercise, as there is not, this is the best work in which they could be engaged. But it is definitely affirmed, and all right minded Christians will agree with it, that where there is a scriptural sense of responsibility towards God and his cause, the people will not be satisfied to dedicate to their Maker a church, which in its appearance and furniture, contrasts as unfavorably with their own dwellings as a tent does with a house of Cedar. Such Churches would be only, to succeeding generations, memorials of the injustice their fathers did to the Gospel. And though the ear that hears many things, might not hear it, yet their existence would be but a public proclamation of the charge brought against the children of Israel as applicable to their builders; "Will a man rob God, yet ye have robbed me." We can only expect to prosper, and feel that we are, at least, attempting to discharge our duty, when alone with prayer and other duties, we devote to God that liberal portion of the first of our increase that He in justice claims. And while now, "hard times," are pressing upon us and the love of many waxing cold, and some, with the characteristic meanness of worldly minded penuriousness and want of faith, are withdrawing from the support of God's cause and seeking to throw off landable responsibilities, let all lovers of the truth and its prosperity renew their resolutions and demonstrate their purposes if not with increased liberality, yet by untiring efforts and unity, to sustain the Church of God in all her Evangelical schemes, privileges, and ordinances, that the blessings of Him, who in times of want and distress, can open the windows of heavens and pour down supplies in such abundance that there shall not be room to receive them, may rest upon us and ours. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."—Com.

Editorial Items.

NATAL—REV. W. CAMPBELL.

We referred in our last number to a letter received from the congregation of the Rev. W. Campbell of Natal. We regret that press of matter has again led to its exclusion. It shall appear in the next number.

WESTON.

The Rev. J. B. Logan, A. M., Treasurer of the Building Committee, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of an order for £7. 7s. 6d. from Mrs. Parsons, York, England, in aid of the erection of a Free Presbyterian Church in Weston, C. W.

Donations from friends, in Canada or Britain, will be thankfully received by Mr. Logan and duly acknowledged in the pages of the "Record."

(We have pleasure in testifying to the zeal and liberality of the Friends in Weston. We trust they will meet with encouragement and assistance in their efforts to erect a place of worship in their beautiful village.—EDITOR.)

PICTON.—On the 15th December, the Rev. Robert C. Swinton, formerly of Markham, was inducted into the Pastoral Charge of the congregation at Pictou. The attendance was good, though the weather was unfavourable, and the deep interest manifested by the people, and the harmony of the settlement, promise well for the future prospects of this Congregation. On the evening of the same day one of the largest and most interesting Missionary Meetings ever held in this Church came off with great encouragement to both Pastor and people. There is every reason to believe that this settlement will be a happy, lasting and prosperous one.—Com.

EXPLANATION.—The Hamilton *Spectator and Journal of Commerce* a short time ago contained a paragraph which we think it necessary briefly to notice. In the paragraph referred to we are charged with having "not only appropriated but divided a local paragraph from this paper, passing off the one half as original and the other as communicated." We have simply to say that we do not in general see the *Spectator and Journal of Commerce*. The article in question was cut out from the paper and sent to us by a friend. Our first impression, on which we acted in inserting what was thus sent to us, was that the article had been probably communicated to the newspaper, by some of the friends in Hamilton interested in the Presbyterian Church, as local articles of a like nature are often sent to newspapers in a similar manner by parties on the spot, just as they are frequently sent to ourselves. We accordingly marked it to go in as communicated. To give greater prominence to the two separate items of intelligence embraced in the article, we put a heading to each. In the making

up of the form, it so happened that the latter part of the article was put in first, certainly without any intention on our part, and we observe that, so far as regards the order of time, the arrangement in the *Record* was correct. As the paragraphs appeared in the *Record*, it was intended that both should have been marked as communicated. But this was accidentally omitted. We need scarcely say that of any unworthy motive in the matter we were certainly utterly unconscious. We shall, however, be careful to give due credit to the *Spectator and Journal of Commerce* on any future occasion.

KNOX COLLEGE—STUDENTS' TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

The Annual meeting of the Students Total Abstinence Society, was held in the College Hall on Friday, the 10th November, Mr. A. Matheson, President in the chair. After devotional exercises, the annual report was read by the Secretary Mr. Fletcher; and its adoption was moved by Mr. McCuaig and seconded by Mr. McKinnon. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Coulthard, McEwen, Millican, and McVicar. Eight new members were added to the Society.

The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President, Mr. D. H. McVicar.

Vice Pres, Mr. A. Matheson.

Secretary, Mr. E. Graham.

Treasurer, Mr. W. Coulthard.

Committee of Management, Messrs. Thompson, McEwen, McCuaig, and Wallace.

GENOA.—The Waldensian Church recently erected in Genoa was lately opened for public worship. On the occasion, the Roman Catholic Newspaper, the *Cattolico*, appeared in mourning, having a black border round the first page, and containing an article still more black.

SPANISH CONGREGATION AT GIBRALTAR. The Free Church Record gives an account written by the pen of Rev. Dr. Stewart of Leghorn, of the induction of Senor Don Francisco Paulo Ruet as minister, of the Spanish Congregation at Gibraltar. The Messrs. Sutherland, Kay, and Dr. Stewart took part in the proceedings.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARIES TO COLUMBIA.—FOUR Missionaries of the Wesleyan Church have left, or are just about to leave for British Columbia. The Wesleyans deserve credit for their Christian enterprise.

REV. DR. CUNNINGHAM.—It is proposed to nominate the Rev. Principal Cunningham, as Moderator of the General Assembly at its next ordinary meeting.

REV. MESSRS. MCCLURE AND GIBSON.—We are glad to observe that Messrs. McClure and Gibson, the respected deputies for the Irish Presbyterian Church have arrived safely in Ireland.