

of a beggars servant, like yon woman carrying the bag and poke." Now this hospitality was never dispensed with a grudge, but with all tenderness and nicest delicacy. These "genteel beggars" were received into the family, had comfortable quarters assigned to them in the house, partook of all the family meals, and the utmost care was taken by old and young that not one word should be uttered, nor anything done, which could for a moment suggest to them the idea that they were a trouble, a bore, an intrusion, or anything save the most welcome and honoured guests. This attention according to the minutest details, was almost a religion with the old Highland "gentleman" and his family.

The poor of the parish strictly so called, were, with few exceptions, wholly provided for by the Tacksmen. Each farm, according to its size, had its old men, widows, and orphans depending on it for their support. The widow had her free house, which the farmers and the "cottiers" around him kept in repair. They drove home from "the Moss" her peats or fuel; her cow had pasturage on the green hills. She had land sufficient to raise potatoes, and a small garden for vegetables. She had hens and ducks too, with the natural results, of eggs chickens and ducklings. She had sheaves of corn supplied her, and these, along with her own gleanings, were threshed at the mill with the Tacksmans's crop. In short, she was tolerably comfortable, and very thankful, enjoying the feeling of being the object of true charity, which was returned by such labour as she could give, and by hearty gratitude.

But all this was changed when those hearty Tacksmen were swept away to make room for the large sheep farms, and when the remnants of the people flocked from their empty glens to occupy houses in wretched villages near the sea-shore, by way of becoming fishers—often where no fish could be caught. The result has been that "the Parish," for example, which once had a population of 2200 souls, and received only £11 per annum from public (Church) funds for the support of the poor, expends now under the poor-law upwards of £600 annually, with a population diminished by one-half, and with poverty increased in a greater ratio. This, by the way, is the result generally, when money awarded by law, and distributed by officials, is substituted for the true charity prompted by the heart, and dispensed systematically to known and well-ascertained cases, that draw it forth by the law of sympathy and Christian duty. I am quite aware of how poetical this doctrine is in the opinion of some political economists, but in these days of heresy in regard to older and more certain truths, it may be treated charitably.

Review of the Past Month.

OUR readers are aware that the Rev. Mr. McKay, of Saltsprings, having been instructed by the Presbytery of Pictou, proceeded to Scotland, some months since, to plead the cause of our Church, and secure, if possible, the services of missionaries for our destitute stations. It will rejoice the hearts of many, to learn that he has been entirely successful in the object of his mission, and that three young clergymen have already arrived, and other four, we have been informed, are expected by next steamer. Mr. McKay, by his zeal and energy, has placed the whole Church under deep obligations to him, and we are convinced that the very best way in which it can repay these obligations, will be by making a suitable effort to implement the arrangement made with the Colonial Committee, mentioned in our last number. This is a matter of prime importance, which can neither be trifled with nor delayed, if we have any regard at all for the future well-being and position of our Church. There is room enough, and work enough for seven active missionaries, but there will be a very imperative necessity for immediate and organized labor in all our congregations, to secure a Home Mission Fund, adequate to the requirements of the case, and such as will enable us to keep faith with our best friends, the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. They have done their part, let us see to it, that we now do ours.

THE DALHOUSIE COLLEGE BILL has passed both branches of the Legislature almost without a remark, so far as we have seen. This betokens either great unanimity of feeling or supreme indifference. Let us take for granted, for the sake of human nature, that it is the former, and act accordingly. The subject will now be ripe for action, at the approaching meeting of Synod. The issue, whatever it may be, cannot fail to affect vitally—we had almost said, the future of our Church in this colony. We trust that the decision will be such as will at once recommend itself to the great body of our people, enlist their warmest sympathies, and gather their hearts around the college, as at once a great Provincial Institution, and a seat of learning, which may yet equip not a few spiritual teachers, who shall be pillars to our colonial Zion.

FROM A NOTICE in another part of the Record, it will be observed that our students in Glasgow University keep their ground well, and that on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes in the Common Hall, the name of Nova Scotia continues to be heard with becoming honour. This is as it should be, and is one of the most cheering indications of the brightness of our future. While on the subject of students, we would take the liberty of reminding our people of the great and pressing claims of the Young Men's Scheme. Several congregations have made