

pointed to the parish of Canonbie in the south of Scotland.

It is seldom however that people allow the valuable privilege of exercising the right of voting to pass from them. Usually every applicant for a parish gets a hearing; and consequently Sunday after Sunday perhaps for months a new preacher occupies the pulpit, and displays his gifts and graces to the watchful electors who combine criticism with devotion as best they are able to.

In rare instances, another mode of procedure is adopted. The congregation delegates to a committee the right of choosing a minister for them. This was done, for instance, in the case of the Rev. C. M. Grant, late minister of St. Mary's, Partick, (and by the way, a distinguished native of this county) who was elected minister of a very wealthy charge in Dundee, the congregation having had no opportunity of hearing him previous to his election.

Similarly, to come to this side of the Atlantic, Mr. Lang of Montreal, was appointed to his present charge, before his congregation had an opportunity of either seeing or hearing him.

We make these statements for the information chiefly of our vacant charges which may have some difficulty in choosing a minister without insisting upon hearing him beforehand. When people insist rigidly upon hearing a minister preach before electing him, their choice is necessarily limited to the few who may find it convenient to appear before them. There may be cases when it might be to the advantage of a congregation to call a minister without first insisting on hearing him. They might receive him on the good report of others, as in the cases above mentioned, and doubtless in others also.

Should any object that they would thus be in danger of getting an unsuitable man, it might be said in reply that this has often enough happened even after people have got the man of their

free choice, having previously heard him. And besides this it might be shown that the tie between pastor and people, on this continent (to speak generally and with some caution) is not incapable of being loosened by the latter as well as by the former.

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At last meeting of Presbytery the Rev. D. McKay sent in his resignation of the pastoral charge of the congregation of Gairloch, to take effect from the 28th May. Mr. McKay has it appears taken a trip to the Upper Provinces. The large and influential congregation of Gairloch is consequently vacant.

A call from New Glasgow congregation to the Rev. Mr. Carruthers was laid on the table. We have not learned whether Mr. Carruthers has accepted it or not.

It was further intimated that the congregations of Earltown, The Falls and West Branch River John, were preparing a call to the Rev. D. McKenzie, a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of the United States.

The question of admitting the organ into St. Andrew's, Church Pictou, was also brought before the Presbytery. As the matter was brought up in a somewhat informal manner the Presbytery by the casting vote of the Moderator, *pro tem*, decided to refer the matter to the Kirk Session, instructing them to proceed according to the law of the Church.

The Rev. Mr. McKichan now preaches once a fortnight at the Vale Colliery and Sutherland's River, and the new arrangement is said to be highly satisfactory.

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Before leaving Gairloch the Rev. Mr. McKay was presented with a handsome gold watch, and Mrs. McKay received a purse of money as a token of good-will from the congregation.