

the scholars themselves have largely contributed. The number of adults attending the Bible Class is very cheering, and it is to be hoped that the religious instruction which they receive in this class will enable not a few of them to offer themselves as candidates for the membership of the Church. The congregational prayer meeting is generally well attended by the youthful part of the congregation, whose appearance is in unison with the devotional exercises of the meeting. It is, however, to be regretted, and very discouraging, that such important meetings are not so well attended as they might, and ought to be, by the heads of families. This, very probably, in a country congregation, may arise from the lateness of the hour of meeting, and the great distance which many families reside from the Church. Nevertheless, it appears to me that the great test of the spiritual vitality of our most holy Faith, and the success and spiritual health of any congregation, is evinced by a warm interest which its members take in the congregational prayer meeting. And how can this be manifested? By their regular attendance, sharing and taking a part in the devotional exercises of the meeting, along with the minister and members of the Kirk session, by which there will be both variety, while, at the same time, there will be a unity of wrestling at the throne of grace for the "blessing which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow." The Lay Association in connection with St. Columba's congregation, I understand, is in a most healthy condition, and has produced, this year, a considerable sum. The Trustees are certainly greatly indebted to the Lady Collectors for the time they have spent, and the success which has crowned their labors.

It also affords me great gratification to report that the attendance of the congregation of St. Andrew's is good and most satisfactory. Their appreciation of Divine ordinances is evinced by a serious attention and a uniform decorum, becoming the House of the Lord, during all the diets of public worship. There is also a small Sabbath School connected with this congregation, with one female and two male teachers, which meets in the Church an hour before the commencement of public worship. It is a matter of deep and serious regret, that I cannot pay that attention which it requires, owing to the time spent in my travelling between the two Churches. In this district, the children capable of Sabbath School instruction are limited in number, but I am happy to record that those that do attend show great attention and diligence in the acquiring of Bible information, a good knowledge of the Shorter Catechism, and great aptitude in repeating Psalms and spiritual songs. The prayer meeting is held every alternate week, on the Monday evenings. I am highly pleased with the attendance and attention which is evinced in these meetings. I have not yet been enabled

to constitute a Kirk session in this congregation, but I hope that this will soon be effected. I have not yet formed a Bible Class, for the want of time. The Sabbath School has no library, but as this congregation is but a recently erected charge, it is to be hoped that, as it grows in Church membership, this may be obtained for the youth of the congregation. My ministerial visitations in both congregations have been both cordial and genial, which I have been enabled to effect in the Spring of this year.

In concluding this Report, I may be allowed to say that the united congregations are in a healthy condition, so far as I understand, as to their finances. These Churches are both freed of all pecuniary incumbrances, and, this year, they have raised a goodly sum for Stipend, Schemes of the Church, and the Dalhousie College Endowment.

GEO. W. STEWART.

Sydney Mills, Lot 34, June, 1866.

THE CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Presbytery of Pictou.

The Kirk Presbytery of Pictou held their ordinary quarterly meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on the 6th inst. Present—Rev. R. Mc'unn, Moderator; Rev. Messrs. Herdman, Pollok, McCurdy, McGregor, Philip, Stewart, Goodwill, Anderson, McMillan, and McDonald; Messrs. W. Jack, Alex. McLean, Robt. Reid, and H. McKenzie, Elders.

Much of the business was routine, and consequently of little interest to the readers of the *Record*.

Messrs. Stewart and Pollok were appointed a committee to assist the Lochaber congregation in selecting and deciding on a site for a new Church.

The committee appointed to visit the Folly Mountain congregation gave in their report, from which it appears that, though small, said congregation is doing well according to its number and circumstances, and the prospects of increase are very hopeful.

Anent the Resolution *in re* Dalhousie College, at a *pro re nata* meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, on the 9th ult., it was agreed to, as an improvement, that said meetings be held in the different congregations on the Mondays of the communion, and that, if it be impossible for the committees to attend at the places assigned them, on said days, the brethren assisting on said occasions shall bring the subject of the Dalhousie College before them, and solicit contributions, which, it is hoped, will be so liberal as to prevent the necessity of another appeal in behalf of this Fund.

W. McM.

ERRATA.—The presentation of Pulpit Robes to Rev. Mr. McGregor was made by the ladies of East Branch East River; and not West Branch, as stated in our last.