

In last report, I stated that I had been requested to preach a funeral sermon on the occasion of the death of the late Mr. William Cooper, Merchant, Pugwash, who ever showed himself a warm and enthusiastic friend of our cause. I did so upon sabbath the 23d November, when the Church was quite filled with a most attentive audience composed of members of all denominations. The discourse then delivered has since been published by request; and I sincerely trust that the perusal of it may be blessed to those into whose hands it may chance to fall. I humbly think that the Church of Scotland should not be behind other religious bodies in honoring the memory of her departed friends, who, in their day and generation, have laboured for her good. It would surely be wrong to allow any, who have distinguished themselves by their zeal for her interests, to pass away without some fitting memorial of her approbation of their worth, and I am in hopes that a tombstone, or some such monument, will be erected in remembrance of the deceased,—in aid of which the proceeds of this sermon will be applied.

I may mention that a few Sabbaths ago, I preached a Thanksgiving Sermon for the late abundant harvest, with which this and other countries have been blessed, by the unmerited goodness of a bountiful providence, from the text—"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness." Ps. 65, 11. There was a very good attendance. Such opportunities ought always to be improved. A good harvest is a boon which all can appreciate, and for which all ought to show their thankfulness and gratitude. The author of our temporal is also the author of our spiritual blessings:—hence the double claim which the giver of every good and perfect gift has upon the grateful feelings of all his intelligent offspring. It ought never to be forgotten that true religion has a regard to the life that now is as well as to that which is to come. It tells of Him who so richly provides for the wants of the body as well as for those of the soul. It inculcates upon all, industry and perseverance in their several worldly callings. To all men it says—consider with what faithfulness the bounties of heaven are constantly offered for your acceptance—and from hence, see it to be your duty, as well as your privilege, to fulfil the conditions requisite to obtain the mercies so graciously put within your reach. In particular, to the husbandman it says, in the language of Solomon, "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation? The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered. The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field. And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance of thy maidens." A man denied that this passage was to be found in the Bible, but I soon showed him that it was so, by turning to the Book of Proverbs, chapter 27th, twenty-third and following verses.

In regard to taking the Record, I feel bound to say that the people of Wallace and Pugwash will stand a comparison with any district of equal extent. There is scarcely one of our friends there that is not a subscriber for our little paper; and for next year, I am pretty confident that the numbers will not fall away. In Pugwash we have lost one of

our most active agents by the lamented death already alluded to. But I am sure that either Squire Macnab or Mr. Murray, who are both, strongly attached to us, will readily and efficiently supply his place. In Wallace, we have an excellent agent in Mr. Macnab, merchant. It cannot for a moment be doubted that much of the success of the paper depends on the zeal of the various parties who have kindly agreed to become our agents. I am very glad to find, from the last number of the Record, that our prospects in this respect are so good in P. E. Island. With so many sincere and active friends of our Zion in that quarter, we have reason to hope for the best results; though at the same time, let me say, that we have reason to fear, that if our adherents in this Province do not show themselves sufficiently zealous on behalf of our publication, the men of the Island may possibly take it into their heads to shame our lukewarmness by starting a similar paper of their own on the other side of the water! I know that there is plenty of talent there to justify the undertaking; and I am sure that, rather than allow us to want an organ of our Church, without which our cause could never hope to prosper, more than one of our ministers would spare neither time, labour, or expense, in volunteering their services for that purpose.

Agreeably to the expectation which I have so often expressed, we have now obtained a fair supply of what we have been so long anxiously waiting for—fresh labourers. The Colonial Committee, under the able Conventship of the Rev. Dr. Fowler, whose energetic measures on behalf of the various Colonies have already been so eminently successful, have shown themselves truly alive to the best interests of our church in this province by sending out, within the last few months, so many fully qualified missionaries to supply the spiritual destitution. They have laid our people under the deepest obligations, seeing that there are now so many other localities calling for assistance, and affording ample prospects of a suitable maintenance to ministers of the gospel. Let our people, in return for those benefits, show the reality of their gratitude by the use which they make of them. Let them, according as God has given them the means, subscribe liberally to the funds of the Committee, who will thus be encouraged and enabled to extend the operation of their beneficent scheme to other districts occupied by our countrymen, members of the same church, who are yet unprovided for. Those who have been sent out, are all of them men of excellent characters and first-rate abilities, selected from among many applicants for appointments in the Colonies. The Rev. Messrs. Duncan and Lochhead, whom I met some months ago, I am happy to learn are now labouring with exemplary diligence and success, in their respective spheres, as pastors of large and attached congregations on the Island. And I had the pleasure of seeing two gentlemen here lately, the Rev. Messrs. Duff and Muir, recently arrived in the Colony; and was delighted to hear that their services were everywhere so highly and justly esteemed. Truly, our people have now much cause for thankfulness; and it is my sincere and earnest prayer that they may not be unmindful of the inestimable privileges which they now happily enjoy, nor withhold that assistance to the Church and support to her Ministry which they are bound to afford.

Wallace, Dec. 16.

[To the Editor of the Monthly Record.]

Sir:

As a member of the Church of Scotland that venerable and beloved institution in which for ages my fathers have worshipped, and for which, in this land of my adoption, in common with many others, I still continue to cherish feelings of profound respect, permit me, an humble individual in the eyes of not a few as well as myself in regard to the present condition and prospects of a church in this Colony. Through the kindness of the parent church, in sending so many missionaries lately from Scotland, we have now almost realised a degree of prosperity equal to that of the palmy days, when we had more than a score of clergy in connection with our body in Nova Scotia. The brethren at home, therefore, do we owe a deep debt of gratitude for their manifestation of our spiritual wants, which they have so nobly supplied, sending us not only men, but also, in the meantime, making liberal provision for their support until they are promoted for by their congregations. In this respect it would be vain for us to look around among other denominations for a similar example of liberality. I think I am warranted in asserting that no church could be named, which has done and is at this moment doing, more for her sons and daughters abroad than the Church of Scotland. Like a tender mother, she ever cherishes a warm interest for her children's welfare, however widely they may be scattered; and for no place has she manifested greater regard than for this country. It is the melancholy era of the disruption, as you say, more, we have now at length faced better than any other colony. We have now every reason for thankfulness.—none in the world for growing or discontent,—unless we should be so unreasonable as to expect still greater favors than we have yet received. We could only expect the Committee to endow our churches, and provide manse and glebes for our ministers! That would be a stretch of liberality which the most exacting of us would scarcely dream of.

In all conscience, the favours already bestowed by the church at home are been far greater than we could have looked for. We could hardly expect to be embraced within the range of Dr. Robertson's Endowment scheme, which has been prosecuted with such vigor and success at home, and has already added forty new parishes to the church. Were such a man to take up our cause, I doubt we should be greatly benefited by his exertions; but has not the present Committee of the Colonial Committee already given promise of an equal zeal in his own department? During the last few months, since he entered office, a greater number of missionaries have been sent out, than during almost an equal number of years before. There can be no greater blessing for a country or a church than to have the right men in the right place; and on this score also we have ample reason to be content. Dr. Fowler is entitled to our gratitude. He bids fair to do for the church in the Colonies what Dr. Robertson is doing for the church at home. Without such men, both in Scotland and elsewhere, to guide and direct her counsels, and exert themselves on her behalf, sparing neither time nor labor to promote her interests, the Church of Scotland would soon cease to be so great a blessing to the country; she would incur the just contempt of other more zealous religious bodies.