

eight to twelve in college at a time; quite a sufficient number to supply our wants. Besides, our scheme, by the strict examination to which our young men are subjected, and the selections made before they leave this country, affords us a guarantee that no block-heads shall be sent. Perhaps it would be deemed invidious to speak of the four young men who have just returned to us, ready, and fully equipped for their Master's service; but I may be pardoned, when I express the opinion, that for literary acquirements, ministerial gifts, and personal appearance they would do honor to any country; and we have the pleasing intelligence, that those young men from here, now studying for the ministry in Scotland, are all lads of great promise.

I have taken it for granted, that the ministers of our church will repudiate any offer to union, that will have the effect of changing their relation with the church of their fathers; and I trust this is true of one and all of them—nevertheless there can be no harm in telling them, that the eyes of their people are in this matter fixed upon them. I know the kirk people are as strongly and as affectionately attached to their pastors as any others in the land; but strongly and affectionately as is their attachment to their ministers, their affection and attachment to the church of their forefathers are still stronger. They believe the Church of Scotland is still "one of the fairest daughters of the Reformation." They believe she still preaches the doctrine taught by Christ and his Apostles in all their breadth and pureness. They believe her practice and discipline are now the same they were for the last three centuries. They remember her kindness, and her fostering care over themselves in the years that are past, and the thoughts of her are "If I forget thee, oh Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning!" And because of these things, the affection which binds us to the Parent Church is only strengthened by time, which no efforts from any quarter can lessen, though they be productive of that confusion and bad feeling we all deprecate.

Had the Free Church Laity bestirred themselves in time, there would not be so many sore hearts among them to-day—a timeous assertion of what was their undoubted right, with a judicious tightening of the purse strings, would have prevented a union which thousands of them now lament. Our people have been taught a wholesome lesson at their experience. We will try to avoid the breakers upon which our brethren of the Free Church made shipwreck.

N———, Feb. 14, 1861.

My Dear Mr. Editor,—

Your spirited and praiseworthy endeavors to improve our Church *Record*, and extend its influence and circulation, have won my little endeavor to support and aid you.

Highly as I have prized the fruits of your labors in this respect in the year that is past, I must acknowledge that the excellent step of issuing your periodical twice a month, thus doubling its visits to us, has greatly increased my delight and admiration.

Your second issue has presented to your readers a very cheering exhibition of things done and doing for our venerable and beloved Church. Very cheering is it, indeed, to read of the erection of the new church at Maclean's Mountain, of the excellence of the former and present pastors there, and of the great liberality of the people. Very cheering also is it to read of the number of new churches which have been erected by your congregations in Nova Scotia; but far more cheering it truly is to contemplate the interesting proceedings in Glasgow Presbytery, regarding your four talented and accomplished missionaries whom you have now in the midst of your Gaelic congregations. After a career at college most honorable to them all, they there had the highest testimonies publicly borne to their private deportment and worth. Many who have come for a time from our native land as missionaries to the adherents of the Church of Scotland in the Provinces have been influenced to return to the land of their birth, and have been appointed to fields of labor there. But if there be any expectation that may be warrantably formed of the amiable missionaries you have just received, it is this, that their hearts will be bounding with Christian joy at the thought of having been brought, by their Father in Heaven, in safety to their native land again, well furnished for the work of the ministry, into fields of usefulness far more needy, more extensive, and more righteously and urgently claimant upon them than any they can find elsewhere. The hope of our Church in the colonies must naturally be, the supplying of the congregations with pastors, who, with affectionate regard to the best interests of their native land, will feel deeply for the Christian wants of their friends and brethren there; and, being abundantly grateful for the aid afforded them, when aid was needed, in their preparation for their ministerial duties, will rejoice and labor to be blessed and be a blessing in the land which gave them birth.

We read of memorable times in the history of civil and Christian enterprise. No such blessing has for many years, if ever, descended upon the Gaelic congregations of your Church, as that of the highly accomplished and devoted preachers of the gospel to go in and out among them with the words of eternal life. May this, a time of great joy among you all, be a time long remembered for the blessing which you have received. And while many praise the Lord with devout gratitude for all his goodness to the missionaries they have welcomed among them again, may there be a spirit created, of grateful for-