

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.



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"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

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SPRING.

The bursting buds look up,
To greet the sunlight, while it lingers yet
On the warm hill-side—and the violet
Opens its azure cup
Meekly, and countless wild flowers wake to fling
Their earliest incense on the gales of spring.
Continual songs arise
From universal Nature—birds and streams
Mingle their voices, and the glad earth seems
A second paradise!
Thrice blessed spring!—thou bearest gifts divine!
Sunshine, and song, and fragrance—all are thine.
Nor unto earth alone—
Thou hast a blessing for the human heart,
Balm for its wound and healing for its smart,
Telling of Winter's frown,
And bringing hope upon thy rain-bow wing,
Type of Eternal Life—thrice blessed spring!

KNOX'S CHURCH—SALE OF LADIES' WORK.

[Among the many contributions to the Sale of Ladies' Work, in aid of the Building Fund of Knox's Church, were a variety of little articles from fourteen young Ladies, of the Episcopal Church, Perth, C. W. The following lines, addressed to Mrs. (Dr.) Burns, accompanied the donation, and we insert them as illustrative of a liberal spirit and christian feeling, well worthy of extensive imitation.]

Our humble offering accept,
To aid religion's cause;
The zeal of old which lately slept,
Now wakes to guard our laws.
Tho' Chalmers slumbers in the grave,
His followers shall live;
They gather from beyond the wave
Their free-will unite to give.
They come, they come from cot and hall,
Servants of God, they come—
Our heartfelt prayer is breathed by all,
That he their hopes may crown.
Tho' we are of another band,
Our hearts are all the same;
And we would lend a helping hand,
To raise the Free Church name

PERTH, 25th May, 1850

REPORT OF THE SYNOD'S HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

In order to make room for the following interesting Report we have taken the liberty of abridging it, especially the notices of the different Presbyteries.

In bringing before the Church a view of the Home Missionary operations for another year, the Committee have to advert to two solemnizing events, the removal by death, within the last month, of two of the missionary labourers, who, during a portion of the past year, were occupied in cultivating the field. The Rev. Joseph Harris, formerly a missionary in India, who was admitted to full ministerial communion with this Church at the last meeting of Synod, and was inducted by the Presbytery of Hamilton to the pastoral charge of the congregation in Niagara, while attending a meeting of Presbytery, was overtaken by disease, and after little more than a week's illness was called from all his earthly labours and afflictions, to enter into the joys of his Lord. His faith in the Redeemer was steadfast in the hour of death, and his soul was filled with the full assurance of hope to the end. With the confidence of faith he commended his wife and children, and sorrowing flock to the care of that covenant God whom he had so long and faithfully served in the gospel; and we have no doubt but they will have the sympathy of the people of God throughout the church. His flock, which has thus been called to mourn over the early removal of an affectionate and faithful pastor whom they most cordially loved, is again dependent for a dispensation of ordinances on the services of the missionaries sent out by the Church.

The other event referred to, is the death of Mr. George Muir, Student in Divinity, who, at the close of the last College Session, was for the first time sent out to labour as a Catechist, and who has been suddenly cut down in the midst of health and in the vigour of his days. These solemnizing dispensations loudly admonish us to labour while it is called to day. May they be blessed of God to awaken in all, greater diligence in doing His work, and an earnest spirituality that we also be ready to give an account of our stewardship.

Shortly after the Committee had given in their report to the last meeting of Synod, five missionaries from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland arrived in this Province, and presented their credentials to Presbyteries of this Church. One of this number, we regret to learn, was under the necessity, from the state of his health, of returning to his native country. The other four have, we believe, been inducted into pastoral charges.

According to the instructions of the Synod, the Committee during last summer opened a correspondence with the Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, by addressing a letter to the Rev. Wm. McClure, of Londonderry, cordially welcoming in the name of this Church, the more full and systematic co-operation, which we have now reason to expect from the sister Church in Ireland, pointing out the nature of the work in which our missionaries were called to engage, the special qualifications they ought to look for in the ministers when designated to this country. A letter in reply has just been received, intimating that the communication from your Committee had been published in the *Missionary Herald*, for the information of the Church, and that the suggestions it contained, would be attended to as far as practicable. The Directors of the Mission Board have, at the same time intimated, that they have nominated three missionaries to proceed to British North America, namely, the Rev. Daniel Greer, formerly of the Mariner's Church, Belfast, the Rev. Francis Andrews a licentiate of the Presbytery of Abinghill, and the Rev. John Gillespie, of the Presbytery of Banbridge. The first two mentioned gentlemen do not leave Ireland till August, Mr. Gillespie was to sail on the 26th of April, last.

It will be remembered, that last year the Home Mission Committee reported, that in accordance with the instructions of Synod, they had been looking out for a fit person to act as Superintendent of Home Missions, who could devote all his time and attention to this department of labour, and that they had appointed the Rev. Gilbert Johnston, minister of New Cummock, Scotland, to that office. The Synod, in their deliverance on this report, "approve specially of the efforts of the Committee in regard to the appointment of an agent or Superintendent of Home Missions, and authorize and *exhort* them to concentrate their efforts, until they procure one or more ministers of experience in that capacity, as they may find themselves justified by the state of the Synodical Home Mission Fund." This deliverance was unanimously adopted by the Synod. After the meeting of Synod the Committee could not take any steps in the way of following out the injunction laid upon them, until they received an answer to the application, which had been previously made to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church. At the meeting of the Committee, held at Toronto in October, a letter was read from Mr. Bonar, intimating that the Colonial Committee agreed with us, as to the importance of the office and work to which Mr. Johnston had been called, and that they had agreed to give £100 sterling towards the payment of his salary; whereupon your Committee voted to record their thanks for