

## THE MONTHLY RECORD.

SEPTEMBER, 1858.

## The Collection for the Bursary Fund.

THE collection in aid of the Bursary Fund is appointed to be made on the first Sabbath of October. This scheme has already called forth much of the sympathy and support of our people. In its original form it existed within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, having been started in the year 1853. It was the means in the same year of furnishing funds sufficient to send home four young men to study in Scotland for the ministry, and has sufficed to aid them in the prosecution of their studies. Assistance has also been extended to young men in Canada. Whatever may become of this fund, these, its earliest results, are highly satisfactory.

In our present circumstances it is to these young men we look for an immediate supply of our very pressing wants in the Gaelic fields of our Church. We have almost ceased to look for the arrival of Gaelic ministers from other quarters. The demands of the Highland parishes are so many and so great that our supply of Gaelic clergymen from Scotland must be, if not a complete failure, unsatisfactory in the highest degree. In our present condition as a Church we look for our supply of Gaelic to the little that has been done in connection with this scheme. Our best friends, in view of these circumstances, feel thankful to God for having directed us to the formation of the Bursary Fund.

Our people will remember that the scheme has now become Synodical. In the year 1856 it was adopted by the Synod of Nova Scotia. It is now the Bursary Fund. It contemplates the assistance, by bursaries, of young men studying in Canada. The curriculum there is shorter, and the Synod have full confidence in the efficiency and management of the Canadian institution in connection with our Church.

Dear brethren, look at our denominational field and see how vast is the want of gospel ordinances. We have become so accustomed to this state of things that we do not realise as we ought its sad consequences. These consequences, however, are appalling and must show themselves in after times even more than now. Districts and large congregations have been without a stated ministry for many long years. The effect of this upon the rising generation, upon the church going habits of all, and upon the interests for time and eternity of the people of these districts, must be detrimental. Some of these congregations have built churches of the most elegant construction, and it is sad to think

that they should not have a sure prospect of ministers of the gospel to occupy their pulpits. Such a state of things must produce, in many cases, alienation, and where it does not produce this, effects that are even more to be lamented.

Something must be done by way of remedy. The alternative is, an educational institution or a Bursary Fund. Most churches have both, but we must be content at present with a day of small things. An educational institution of our own we do not possess. A Bursary Fund however, that has done good, and has furnished us with our only hope of pastors for our destitute congregations at present, is now in operation. We commend it then to the support of our people. We ask for the support of all. We ask especially in this matter for the support of those congregations who have no pastors and who may be supposed to have a peculiar interest in such an undertaking as the present. If partial efforts are made in this and other cases, partial results only follow. But if the effort is as general and as conscientious as is desired, the result will be such a fund as will place it in the power of the Synod to secure a regular ministry for our vacant charges.

By order of Synod,

ALLAN POLLOCK.

## Presentation to the Rev. James Mair

A deputation from the congregation of Barney's River, a few days ago, waited on their Pastor, the Rev. James Mair, and presented him with some excellent carpeting, as a token of the esteem in which they hold him. Such occurrences are really refreshing in a world where there abounds so much of the selfish element as to verify the Prophet's saying: "Take ye heed every one of his neighbor, and trust ye not in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with slander." Gifts such as these are not to be measured by their money value, but are to be taken as indexes of loving and grateful hearts desirous to manifest their feelings, and as such are to be valued as far more precious than gold that shineth. The address accompanying the gift was as follows:

"REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

"On behalf of the Ladies of Piedmont and Upper Settlement, Barney's River, in connection with your congregation, we beg to present you with the accompanying carpet as a small token of their esteem and regard for your services, and the zeal you have displayed for their spiritual welfare. We rejoice in the privileges we now enjoy under your faithful ministra-

tions, and we earnestly pray that you may be long spared amongst us in health and strength to enjoy the blessings of Providence and to minister to the wants of your flock.

"We are, &amp;c.,

(Signed.)

"DUNCAN McDOUGALD,  
"JOHN CAMPBELL."

Rev. J. Mair, Barney's River.

## MR. MAIR'S REPLY.

The most faithful and devoted laborer, in whatever occupation engaged, receives a stirring and a cheering influence from the expressed sympathy of friends. The husbandman laboring in the vineyard of our Lord feels the cheering influence of such, necessarily, in a far higher degree than others engaged in secular occupations. They, in a greater degree, are spurred on by a care for self, every action and thought as they are daily engaged in the duties of the farmer or the merchant, is turned to answer the questions: What will be best for me? What will give me the greatest remuneration? While the minister of Christ, if faithful to his Master, has to turn his thoughts and his actions outwards to the souls around him, and ask himself: What is best for these whose souls are dear to Jesus? What plan will lead most of his people to the feet of our dear Redeemer. In these circumstances you cannot doubt but that the token of love and esteem with which ye have presented me is highly valued in my eyes. Unworthy as I feel myself, unable as I am to do the work of the Lord as I know it ought to be done, such a proceeding was quite unexpected by me,—taking me thus by surprise, it fills my heart with the greater gratitude. Convey to those who have thus interested themselves in me my warmest thanks. To me, in the circumstances in which I am placed, such an act is doubly precious and will be doubly prized. A stranger in a strange land, with all endearing ties yet binding me to the land of my nativity, to have proof that there are those who thus care for me here, is like the weary traveller's unexpected approach to an oasis in the dreary wilderness. So long, as in the providence of God, I am among you, it shall ever be my endeavor, while laboring zealously as I can in the service of my Saviour, to merit the esteem and respect which this kindness shows you have towards me. And may God in his mercy through Jesus grant unto us all happiness and peace here and an abundant entrance into his presence hereafter.

I am yours.

With love in the

Lord Jesus,

JAMES MAIR.

Barney's River,

9th August, 1858.