

and that no representative from that Synod had found it convenient to attend our present meeting. The Rev. William Murray, of Moncton, who had been cordially welcomed as the representative from the Synod of New Brunswick, and had regularly attended and assisted at all our deliberations, received the unanimous thanks of the Synod for his valuable services, which were tendered to him by the Moderator.

It is gratifying for us to be enabled to state that the whole proceedings of this meeting of the Synod were of a most satisfactory character, and that the greatest good feeling and harmony prevailed among the members. Subjects brought under review were discussed with much ability and earnestness, many of the speeches being eloquent and appropriate; and we certainly cannot fail to notice with peculiar approbation the assistance rendered in our deliberations by our brethren of the eldership. The speeches of the Hon. Col. Gray, the Hon. John Holmes, John McKay, Esq. of New Glasgow, and others—pious, enlightened and devoted elders of the church—would have been heard with much pleasure and profit in any deliberative assembly. The presence of our lay brethren in the different Church Courts is one of the most pleasing and essential features in our ecclesiastical polity as a Presbyterian Church, and it is greatly to be desired that all our kirk sessions should endeavor to be regularly represented in all our Presbyteries and Synods, by able, faithful and attached elders.

In drawing the business to a close, the Synod passed a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to the citizens of Charlottetown for their distinguished hospitality and kindness to all the members of the Court during their stay in that place, and appointed their next meeting to be held at Pictou on the last Wednesday of June, 1859.

From the Presbyterian's Correspondent in Ceylon.

THE MANSE, KANDY, March 13th, 1858.

We have been now three months in Ceylon, and are, I am thankful to say, in good health and well pleased with the country. We sailed from Southampton on the 4th of November, and reached Ceylon on the 9th of December. I have so often written accounts of the journey, that you must excuse me for passing over it very hurriedly: suffice it to say that it was upon the whole very prosperous. Gibraltar, Malta, the Nile, Cairo, the desert, came upon us in thick succession, and my only regret was that we had so little time to spend in places so intensely interesting. Our first view of Ceylon was in the early morning, and we were charmed with the luxuriant vegetation, which presented so striking a contrast to the bleak scorched sands of Aden, where the eye cannot find anything green to rest on, which we had left some ten days before. Passengers are landed at Galle, an old Portuguese and Dutch fortified town. The walls are very substantial, and enclose a considerable space; outside of

them there is little to be seen but cocoa-nut trees and native huts. The harbour was full of vessels, many of which had called on their way to India with troops—We stopped one night in Galle, and started the next morning for Colombo, a distance of about seventy miles by the mail-coach. The road was excellent and very pretty; much of the way quite near the shore, and overshadowed with cocoa-nut trees, but I got tired of the cocoa-nut trees, and the lazy monotonous-looking natives, who seemed to have nothing to do but stand by the roadside and look at the coach passing.

A stranger in Ceylon is very apt to think that the population consists entirely of women, and, when he has found his mistake, to fancy that there are no women at all. The men, who *do* dress, wear always a combi which is simply a narrow petticoat, and for their shoulders a sort of bedgown; their hair, which is as long as a woman's they tie up into a knot behind, quite in female fashion, and then ornament it with handsome tortoise-shell combs, which, among other purposes, indicate, by their comparative size the dignity of the wearer. The dress of the women is nearly the same, so it is very hard to know at first who is who.

We got to Colombo about four in the afternoon, having driven up in capital style, and there found a hospitable home and friends, with whom I had parted in Scotland two years ago, ready to receive us.

Colombo is also a walled town like Galle, but a large portion of the European society live outside of the walls at considerable distances. I was very sorry to find that the Rev. Mr. McBean, the Chaplain of the Scots Church in Colombo, had been obliged again to leave the Island on account of his health, after having just returned from Europe. His duty is at present taken by Mr. Palm, in addition to his own services as Chaplain of the Dutch Church in Colombo.

With the Governor's leave I remained in Colombo for a few weeks, taking Mr. McBean's duty and also giving Mr. Palm some assistance. The day after Christmas we started for Kandy, a distance of seventy miles into the interior and towards the mountains. Kandy, the old capital of the Kandian Kings, is situated in a very mountainous country and is by everybody thought very pretty. The hills around are very striking, and there is a charming lake at one side of the town, around which the European inhabitants take their evening drive. The most prominent points in the first view of the town are the walls and the lake. The Governor's house, a very handsome building, quite like a country mansion at home; the Buddhist temple and buildings connected with the old Palace; and the English and Scots Churches. The streets of the town are regular, and of a good width, but, with the exception of a few European shops and Dutch houses, they are lined with bazaars, dirty sheds, where half-clad natives squat among the goods, which they have for sale. Many of the Europeans live in bungalows on the edge of the lake, or high up on the hills that overhang it, where the elevation makes the climate delightfully cool. I have an eye to the Scots Church, wherever I go, and of course was anxious about the one in Kandy. It is a very pretty Gothic building, situated in a square of about one acre in extent, or acre and a half, belonging to itself. It is handsomely furnished inside, and is ornamented with a stained glass window, where Scots thistles and the burning bush are conspicuous. Behind is the Manse, also very neat and comfortable; so I have very

great reason to be pleased with the material aspect of my sphere of labour. My congregation consists of a good number of Burghers, descendants of the Dutch and Portuguese, the Scots resident in Kandy, and a large number of coffee planters, who live within a circle of thirty miles. Most of them are at such distances that they cannot often attend; but with a few from the jungle and our Kandian residents, the church is pretty well filled. All around Kandy are coffee plantations, which are usually superintended by young Scotsmen from Aberdeen and the other Northern counties. Indeed I take it for granted now, that every planter I meet with is from Aberdeenshire. It is part of my duty to go once a month to some central place in the country and hold Divine service, but, as there are at least twelve districts which ought to be thus visited, and as week-day services would not answer here at all, it is impossible for me properly to undertake the work. Here, as elsewhere, our Church has been neglected, on account of our divisions and the want of an efficient missionary executive, and Presbyterianism is a very small power in the Island compared with what it should have been. What, with the Dutch descendants and the great number of Scotsmen, compared with those of any other country who have come to the Island, the Presbyterian Church should have been in the foreground here, but such is not the case. I hope, however, better days are in store for us. Certainly there are still a far greater number of Presbyterians by up-bringing in the Island than of any other Protestant communion, and there is more wealth in their hands.

There are at present two Dutch chaplains, and two Scotch on the staff of the Island. There is a Dutch Church at Galle, the minister of which comes from the Synod of Ulster. Then there is the Dutch Church at Colombo, a fine old building, worthy of its position as the mother Church of the Island. I was quite surprised, on entering it, to find such a venerable pile, the walls being hung round with escutcheons of the old Governors, and the floors covered with massive tombstones, deeply marked with inscriptions and armorial emblems of the Dutch grandees. I was not less delighted with the congregation, which, I believe, is the largest in the Island. There is also a fine old Dutch Church at Jaffna, where a Catechist has service; but this Church, like that at Galle, is also used by the English Church. I understand that attempts have several times been made to alienate the Church property of the Dutch, and to appropriate it for the use of the English Church, but they have been unsuccessful. It is very strange that the Church of England should have the want of spirit to take the loan of our churches, and to solicit subscriptions from our people to put up places of worship, which, when built, are, though empty, shut against our clergymen. This is all that now remains of the Dutch establishment, which was once so powerful, and had as many as eight clergymen, I am told, in Colombo, alone. Besides these there are the two Scots churches, that of Colombo and Kandy; but we are making a movement here, which I hope will increase the number of clergymen and strengthen the Church.

If a certain sum is subscribed for a clergyman, Government gives as much more, and we are trying to take advantage of this to get one if not two more clergymen for the Kandian Province. I hope that, when the subscription papers come in from the different districts, they will warrant us in applying for two. The