

line is six times finer, or only the 30,000th part of an inch in diameter, inasmuch that a single pound of this attenuated, yet perfect substance, would be sufficient to encompass our globe. Speaking of odours, the author says, a single grain of musk has been known to perfume a room for the space of twenty years. How often, during that time, the air of the apartment must become charged with fresh odour! At the lowest computation the musk had been subdivided into 320 quadrillions of particles, each of them capable of affecting the olfactory organs. The diffusion of odorous effluvia may also be conceived from the fact, that a lump of assafoetida, exposed to the open air, lost only a grain in seven weeks. *Again, since dogs hunt by the scent alone the effluvia emitted from the several species of animals and from different individuals of the same race, must be essentially distinct, and being distributed over large spaces, must be subdivided beyond our conception or powers of numbers. The human skin is perforated by a thousand holes in the space of a square inch. If, therefore, we estimate the surface of the body of a middle-sized man to be sixteen square feet, it must contain not fewer than 2,301,000 pores. These pores are the mouths of so many excretory vessels, which perform the important function in the animal economy of insensible perspiration.—*Shaw's Nature displayed.*

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

DECEMBER, 1858.

Missionary to British Columbia.

WE observe with much pleasure that the Colonial Committee, with a promptitude and liberality highly creditable to the office-bearers of our General Assembly, have resolved to send out without delay a missionary to British Columbia, Vancouver's Island, and have agreed to allow him a salary of £300 per annum, with passage and outfit. This is a most praiseworthy and judicious movement.

Well would it have been for our Church in many of the Colonies where she is still struggling for existence, if the same zeal and energy had characterised the proceedings of the Colonial Committee forty or fifty years ago, which we see now so abundantly displayed. Thousands and tens of thousands of our colonial population, now found in the ranks of other denominations, would, under diligent and faithful pastors, have in all probability remained steadfast friends of the Church.

The proposed appointment is not only a cause of sincere and fervent gratitude to the Father of mercies, it also furnishes an additional and loud call to increasing liberality on the part of the friends of religion, both at home and in the colonies. It is not as generally known as it ought to be, that our missions in Nova Scotia have become rather a heavy burden upon the funds of the Colonial Committee of late years, amounting annually to £700 or £800. This large expenditure can only be reduced, if our missions are to be kept in their present state of efficiency, by the increase of congregational contributions, and larger home mission funds among ourselves.

We believe that the efforts which are now making in different parts of the Province, will tend to diminish the amount of the Committee's expenditure for the present year, and enable them either to appoint additional Gaelic missionaries within the bounds of our Synod, an extremely necessary and desirable undertaking, or direct their attention to other fields of usefulness, loudly demanding their assistance.

Rev. Alexander McGillivray.

Our readers in these Lower Colonies will learn, we are fully convinced, with much pleasure and satisfaction, that the University of Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, has conferred the degree of Doctor in Divinity upon the Rev. Alexander McGillivray of McLennan's Mountain, one of the oldest and most devoted and laborious ministers within the bounds of our Synod. Mr. McGillivray's services, which have been thus publicly recognized and appreciated, are well known and have been of great importance, more especially among the Gaelic population in these Colonies. At the time of the melancholy division which unfortunately took place in the Synod of Nova Scotia, when so many of her members gave in their adherence to the Free Church, and others left without a moments notice for Scotland,—when the minds of the people were completely bewildered and distracted, by strong declamation and conflicting statements—Mr. McGillivray was left alone, among a population of many thousands, to minister to the best of his ability in eight to ten vacant congregations. For several years, he continued to discharge all the duties of the pastoral office with unwearied diligence and fidelity, preaching, visiting, and dispensing the sacred ordinances of religion, until he was cheered and relieved, by the arrival of one missionary after another, of the greater portion of his extended charge. Every person who visits Pictou, who makes himself acquainted with the history of recent ecclesiastical events and witnesses the present harmony and liberality of so many Gaelic congregations in that place, must be convinced that a deep debt of gratitude is due, under the divine instrumentality, to the influence and exertions of the Rev. Alexander McGillivray. May his useful life be prolonged for many years to enjoy the honor which has thus generously been conferred upon him, to minister to the spiritual necessities of a large and attached flock, and to see the happy fruits of his labours in the increase of our missions and in the appointment of a number of additional labourers to co-operate with him in supplying our destitute congregations with the ordinances of religion.

Report of St. Matthew's Church District Visiting Society for 1858.

The committee of St. Matthew's Church District Visiting Society beg leave to report, for the information of the Church and the public, that they have pursued their unobtrusive, but, as they believe, useful labours, during the past year, and are happy to state that the Society is in an efficient condition, and that the several districts of the city are supplied with active and zealous visitors.

The collections made during the year amount to the sum of £74 2s. 5d.; also the sale of garments, made under the superintendence of the committee, has realized the sum of £34 14s. 11d., all of which has enabled the committee to conduct the affairs of the society satisfactorily and to afford substantial relief to the destitute.

The leading feature of this society is, that poor women and children are furnished with work at a fair rate of payment, and are thus encouraged to form habits of industry and usefulness, and to cultivate feelings of independence and self-respect.

The work furnished consists of materials for making rough garments, useful to the poorer classes. These garments are made and sold at reduced prices, or given in charity to the aged or bed-ridden, the sick and the destitute.

The committee distributed in charity during the year various sums, amounting to £20 1s. 7d.; also a sum of £13, laid out in the purchase of tea and sugar and other groceries. These modes of relief, however, are not resorted to except in cases of necessity, in which the parties are unable to work, or where other causes render it judicious in the opinion of the visitors to give direct charity.

The committee again appeal to the liberality of the Church and public for further support, being fully persuaded that a great amount of good is effected through the agency of this society; and they pray that the Divine blessing may continue to be vouchsafed on the humble efforts of this society, and on the efforts of the other societies in this place engaged in the same cause, and that those who contribute to their funds, as well as those who are partakers of their bounty, may be blessed alike with the true riches, even the "unsearchable riches of Christ."—"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

OFFICE BEARERS—1858.—*Patroness*, Mrs. Allison; *Treasurer*, Miss Murdoch; *Secretary*, Mrs. Murdoch; *Asst. Sec'y*, Miss Duffus; *Committee*—Mrs. Fairbanks, Mrs. Duffus, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Jardine, Miss Brown, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. O'Brien, Miss McNab, Miss Hosterman, Mrs. Esson, Mrs. Alex. Scott, Mrs. Story, Mrs. George Mitchell, Mrs. Andw. Mitchell.