

I was present in the Assembly when the French deputation was received. Monsieur Frossard (the father), spoke English very well and gave a very interesting account of the state of our sister Church in France. The Church of the Huguenots and of thousands of Martyrs. He wore on his breast the decoration of the Legion of Honor having been Protestant chaplain to the French troops at the Crimea during the recent war. Dr. Cunningham, of London, also addressed the Assembly, as a deputy from the Scotch Church in England, and he was most enthusiastically received.

There were two very interesting discussions in the Assembly on church order and worship. One arose out of an overture anent the more systematic reading of the Scriptures in church, sent up by Principal Lee and Dr. Hill. The Assembly enjoined ministers to pay more attention to the Directory which, as you know, enjoins that two chapters be read at every diet of worship.

Another arose out of an overture from Col. Dundas, anent the dispensation of the Lord's Supper in private under certain restrictions. This was the most interesting discussion I heard, and it gave abundant proof of a change of feeling in the church, on this subject. Col. Dundas's views were supported by several eminent laymen and clergymen including one Professor of Divinity, Dr. Robert Lee, who made a very able speech on that side of the question. One or two speakers intimated that the practice had already commenced—and gave it as their opinion that it should come by custom and not by legislation.

The principle of the overture was strongly opposed, however, by others, and a motion to transmit it to a committee for consideration was negatived by a large majority. In my opinion the argument was on the other side as several cases of great apparent hardship were adduced—of people yearning for years for the holy sacrament of the supper, unable to have their desire gratified without leaving the church of their baptism and their country—and as it was very clearly made out from the scriptures that wherever two or three are met together in the name of Jesus Christ, with a lawfully ordained minister, there is a church fully equipped for all the ordinances of the Christian religion.

Edinburgh was unusually crowded and brilliant as, in addition to the Assembly which always brings a large number of people, Thursday was kept as the Queen's birthday and there was a display of fireworks in the evening on account of the Peace. I was at the Commissioners' dinner in Holyrood and afterwards walked up through the Canongate and High Street, which were lined with our old friends of the 72nd, up to the Castle where a salute was fired in honor of Her Majesty. I had many friendly greetings with the men of the 72nd depot, not a few of whom wear medals on their breasts having been with the regiment at the war. Captain Crombie who commands the depot has recently returned and, like other Crimean officers, wears a beard almost down to his belt. I dined with him one day and had a long talk about the war and the movements of the regiment since they left us at Halifax. He told me particulars about our friend McDonald's death, the only one of the officers who has been cut off by the war. He is much regretted in the regiment, and well he may, for there are few in any calling who do their duty so thoroughly as he did, and who are so worthy of respect and regard. During his illness he was frequently visited,

I believe, by the chaplain of the 42nd, the 72nd at that time not having a chaplain of their own. Since then they have had the services of Mr. Cannon, who gave up a parish in Dorsetshire to go out, and who, by the way, is a brother of the celebrated General Cannon.

But I must bring my letter to a close, I think often of you and Mr. Scott and look back with interest upon my fellowship with you in Halifax. I shall ever take the deepest interest in the Church in the Colonies and will be most willing, if able, to execute any commission you may confer upon me. I am often writing and talking on the subject and as in Nova Scotia I used to hold up the good points in the missionary operations of the Church—here I hold up the bad ones.

I see from the Halifax Record that you continue to be much dissatisfied with the Home Record and I don't wonder at it. It makes me angry every time I take it up, so utterly destitute is it of missionary intelligence the only object for which it exists. I took the liberty of writing the Editor some months ago, giving him the ideas of Colonial ministers on the subject. He mentioned his willingness to insert suitable articles but states that he did not receive almost any communications from the Colonies. I hope you will send him your Record if you have not been doing so previously. I venture to predict that there will be a change for the better in its pages after this Assembly. The number for this month might certainly pass very well for a devotional magazine—but as a missionary periodical it is a very remarkable production.

Give my kindest regards to the Rev. Mr. Scott and to other Halifax friends. I hope you will soon have a large number of additional labourers in the field, so that you may enter upon your new office of Superintendent of Missions, and may God grant the Scotch Church in Nova Scotia a summer season of great prosperity.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,
Geo. W. SPROTT.

Missionary Report

By the Rev. George Harper, A. M. Preacher of the Gospel, to the Presbytery of Pictou

The last report given in by me to the Presbytery, brought down the narrative of my labours to the end of March last, when I happened to be residing for the time at Wallace. On the 30th of that month, I exchanged with the Rev. Mr. Herdman of Pictou, in order to allow that gentleman to visit the District. Though at some inconvenience to himself, this he kindly agreed to, visiting every one of our stations in that quarter; and I was glad afterwards to find that while at Wallace, he took the opportunity of making various useful recommendations to our people, among which I may mention the proposal that in the absence of a minister, those of them living in the vicinity of Stake Road should meet together in the schoolhouse there, every sabbath, for social worship. This is an arrangement which I believe has since that time been regularly carried into effect, and one which, I have no doubt, will be attended with much spiritual benefit to the neighbourhood.

On these occasions, as a part of the service, an English sermon is read by one of their number, extracted from some sound evangelical author; and in the meantime our people seem to take delight in such engagements. As to the various other matters, connected with Mr. Herdman's Mission to Wallace, a particular account of them will be found in his report which appeared in a recent number of our "Monthly Record."

On Sabbath the 30th of March, I officiated in St. Andrews, Pictou, and was much gratified to find so good an attendance, both forenoon and afternoon. The congregation is a large one, and under the able, faithful, and zealous ministrations of their esteemed pastor, constantly on the increase. Already the church, though of fair proportions, is quite inadequate to contain their numbers. There is one remark which I have frequently heard made, not only by our own people, but also by members of other religious denominations, and which I do not scruple here to repeat, namely: the peculiar suitability of our Ministers for the various spheres of usefulness which they have been called, in Providence, to occupy in these colonies. Elected to their respective charges, as Ministers ought always to be, by the free and independent voice of the people, acknowledging no patronage but that which their own merits afford, they are on all hands, both by friends and foes, admitted to be the very men best fitted for the work which lies before them. Thus, it must be owned, is indeed a most gratifying reflection to all true friends of the Church of Scotland, and augurs well for the future success of our missionary operations in this colony, which promise soon to be on a more extensive scale than they are at present. When the foundation is known to be sound and stable, there is a fresh and ever-growing confidence imparted in the rearing of the superstructure. In the case of St. Andrew's, the affairs of the congregation are, I believe, mainly owing to the untiring energy, great zeal, and laborious exertions of the minister, in a very satisfactory condition. The fine new manse which has lately been erected, and which is now occupied, is the best evidence that could be afforded of the attachment of the people for their Church and their appreciation of the valuable services of their pastor. It illustrates, moreover, the truth of the proverb, that "where there is a will there is a way." Let other congregations follow so good an example.

On the following Wednesday evening being the occasion of the monthly meeting for prayer, and the hearing of a Lecture on some interesting topic connected with Christianity, I had the honor of officiating in St. Andrew's, and was gratified by the marked attention of the audience, which was considerable.

On Sabbath the 6th April, in conformity with the instructions of Presbytery, I proceeded to Rogershill, where I preached that day, both forenoon and afternoon. Considering the season of the year, and the difficulty of travelling, the attendance was