

the fond hopes entertained by those praiseworthy settlers, for the last thirty years.

In the extremity of their distress, application was made by them to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, by letter, of date Nov. 1846, which found its way in 1847 to the Corvener of the Colonial scheme. After several unsuccessful efforts to obtain a minister, the matter was referred to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and mainly through the zealous efforts of the students in Knox's College, and of the Presbytery of Toronto, to whom they made their appeal, a successful issue has been achieved. It is proper to state that on application through Sir George Simpson, the promise of a free passage was renewed, and our only regret has been that we were not in a capacity to take advantage of it. In case of a second and a Gaelic minister being sent out next season—a thing most desirable—the offer thus guaranteed by the Company will be taken cheerfully advantage of. In the meantime, how cheering to think, that in all probability those noble men have already "seen their teacher" with their own eyes, and grasped by the hand "their minister," the object of their final hopes and painfully disappointed expectations.—Doomed they were to another disappointment just before the dawn of morning. Let us hope it may be the last act in this deeply affecting history.

Sept. 20.

R. B.

#### ORDINATION AT NIAGARA.

On Wednesday, the 24th September, the Presbytery of Hamilton met at Niagara, for the purpose of ordaining Mr. John Alexander, lately a student in Knox's College, to the pastoral charge of the congregation in that town, vacant since the lamented death of the Rev. Mr. Harris. The call to Mr. Alexander has been very harmonious; and every circumstance induces the hope, that much spiritual good may result from this settlement, under the blessing of God. The services on Wednesday were commenced by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Port Dover, who preached a suitable sermon, from Psalms ii. 6: "Yet have I set my King on my holy hill of Zion." After the questions of the Formula had been put to the candidate, and answered satisfactorily, the Moderator called on the Rev. Dr. Willis, who was present, to offer up the ordination prayer, during which Mr. Alexander was, as usual, set apart to his office by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery—the youthful pastor kneeling. Dr. Willis thereafter addressed the pastor, and the Rev. Mr. Stark, of Dundas, the congregation, on their respective duties; and at the close of the service, Mr. Alexander was warmly greeted by the attending people, who were present in very respectable numbers. In the evening a tea meeting was held in the hall at present used as a place of worship by the congregation, and a few hours spent in an agreeable and edifying manner—W. Ball, Esq., occupying the chair. The meeting was addressed, or led in devotional exercises, by Professor Eason, Dr. Willis, Mr. Stark, Mr. Young of Hamilton, Mr. Alexander, and others. Both of the Rev. Professors present bore high testimony

to the merits of the young minister, and the chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Presbytery of Hamilton, for the care it had taken of the vacant charge, and its dispatch in forwarding this happy settlement, recounted some of the vicissitudes through which the congregation had passed, and devoutly recognised the good hand of God that had preserved and guided them. The arrangements of the evening gave universal satisfaction. The addresses being all of a profitable and serious tendency, and intervals being allowed for easy, social conversation, as well as united songs of praise, the attention and animation of the assembly were sustained to the last, while the purpose of dismissing before a very late hour was prudently adhered to.

We congratulate the congregation of Niagara on the event, which has gratified its anxious hopes; and our anticipations are very confident, that the amiable dispositions, good talents, and pious zeal of their new pastor, will render him no unworthy successor of the esteemed and devoted minister, over whose loss they had so recently to mourn.

**BLENNHEIM AND PARIS.**—We learn that unanimous calls from these associated congregations have been presented to Mr. D. McRuar, preacher of the Gospel, who recently received license from the Presbytery of London, and that he has intimated his willingness to close with the same.

The Presbytery will take Mr. McRuar on trials for ordination on the 8th October.

A call to Mr. McRuar from Whithy, was laid before the Presbytery of Toronto, on the 3rd Sept., and sustained by them. We sympathize with the congregation in their present disappointment, and earnestly hope that ere long, they may enjoy the blessings of a settled ministry.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.**—It will be noticed that the usual monthly list of contributions is wanting in this number. This omission has been occasioned partly by the absence of the Agent of the Church, during the early part of the month, and principally, we regret to say, by his severe illness since his return. He is now, however, convalescent, and God willing, will, no doubt, supply full lists for the November No.

N.B. The communication from Markham came to hand much too late for insertion in the present No., at least, in its present dimensions—and we had not time to abridge it.

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.**—The Rev. Dr. Willis has been appointed to a seat in the Senatus Academicus, by His Excellency the Governor General. Professor Lillie, Rev. Mr. Jennings, &c., have been appointed as representing other religious bodies. These Gentlemen occupy the seats in the Senatus, allotted to the representatives of chartered Theological Colleges; and which, until six such Colleges exist in the Province, the Crown is authorised, by the recent Act, to fill up at its choice.

The reproach cast on the University as a "Godless Institution" by the friends of the old exclusive system, is thus far taken away, or rather any appearance of occasion for it; since few will grieve over the emancipation of a literary Institution from priestly and Puseyite influences, as if that were the same thing with its separation from religion.

To the Editor of the Record.

AMHERSTBURG, Sept. 22, 1851.

MR. EDITOR.—

I observe that, in your last number, you solicit short articles on Church matters. In compliance with your request, I will take the liberty

of offering a few remarks regarding Amherstburg, and the state of the Church here:—

This is an old French settlement. A considerable portion of the population is Roman Catholic: their church is large and well filled—numbers attending from the surrounding country. The Protestant churches on the other hand are but thinly attended, and what is still worse, religion is at rather a low ebb amongst them. The evil effects resulting from division are felt in a small community like this. Were all the Protestant congregations united, they might form a strong and respectable body, but in their divided state, they are comparatively weak and ineffective.

The Free Church congregation, originally small, has been greatly enfeebled by the unfortunate secession that took place more than a year ago. The pastor having been set aside for holding those views of doctrine well known in Scotland by the epithet, *Mormonianism*; a majority of the congregation adhered to him. This movement, as may well be supposed, told very unfavourably on the interests of our cause. The minority who continued firm in their adherence to Free Presbyterianism, were now left without a minister, and more than this, they were left *minus* their church; as the separatists taking the law in their own hands, had deprived them of it.—Driven from the place in which they had met to worship God, and left to shift for themselves as they best might, they found refuge within the walls of the Established Church, which was kindly offered them by the members of that body, where they have since enjoyed the means of grace.

Our people here labour under another disadvantage from their isolated position—the nearest congregation being some fifty or sixty miles distant. On this account their intercourse with their brethren is infrequent, and they seldom enjoy the visits of the servants of Christ from other localities. They have, however, been highly favoured of late, having been privileged to have amongst them, within the space of a few weeks, two esteemed ministers of our Church, Mr. Cheyne and Dr. Willis. The former, was the Presbyterian clergyman here for a considerable period before the Disruption, and on his return to his old sphere of labour, after a lapse of some years, he received a hearty welcome from all—Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, every one seemed to recognise in him the presence of an old friend. More than once, indeed, have we heard utterance given to the expression "What a pity it is that Mr. Cheyne ever left us," indicating the high value that was set upon his services.

The visit of Mr. C. was followed by that of Dr. Willis, who arrived here on the 6th instant. It had been the intention of the Doctor to come west at an earlier period, but other engagements that pressed upon him prevented his doing so. On the day after his arrival, being Sabbath, he dispensed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. His services on this occasion, we have no doubt, were enjoyed and highly appreciated by many. His discourses were replete with gospel truth, and were delivered in his usual happy style. The topics selected were appropriate—the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit—these were dwelt on at considerable length, and were demonstrated in a lucid and forcible manner. In hearing the Doctor, you feel that you are listening to one who is thoroughly master of his subject, and who feels the importance of the truths he is delivering. Let us hope that a salutary and lasting impression has been made on the minds of not a few, and that the presence of the great Head of the Church was with us on that interesting occasion.

On leaving us, it was the intention of Dr. Willis to visit the settlement at Buxton, which we are happy to learn is continuing to prosper under the skillful management of Mr. King; and we presume he has by this time returned to Toronto, with the view of shortly resuming his labours in the Theological Seminary of which he is so distinguished an ornament.

CALVINUS.