

curing to the person who should be elected as minister, the sum of 1200 guilders a year, (a guilder is equal to 1s. 8d. sterling.) equal to £100 sterling.

The first minister was Mr. Petrie, some time settled at Rhind, in the neighborhood of Perth, who preached his first sermon—in a house in Wine Street, which had been fitted up for the purpose—on the 2d of August, 1643. From that time the church has been supplied by ministers, or licentiates of the Church of Scotland. The present clergymen—for there are now two—are Messrs. McPhail, and Fairweather. Like others of the churches of Holland it was a place of refuge for many of the holy men who were compelled to flee from their native land in those days of persecution, when the Charleses attempted to force "black prelacy" upon Scotland. Trail of Edinburgh, Brown of Wamphray, Carstairs of Glasgow, and many others preached here; and the ashes of not a few of Scotland's choice sons repose near this spot. The church has been rebuilt, but the old one is still standing; and the sight of this little house of God, with its pavement of tomb-stones covering the sainted dead, deeply stirred our hearts. Driven from their native land, they found here a covert and a quiet resting place while they lived; and, when they died, a peaceful grave. One cannot help loving the Dutch for their generosity, and feeling thankful to them for their kindness to our persecuted forefathers. The present church is a neat building, capable of containing about 900 persons. There were nearly 800 members at one time connected with the church; but, alas! they are sadly diminished. On the day we were present there were not 100 persons altogether; and the membership, I believe, does not nearly amount to that number. Besides this there are other British churches in different cities of Holland, some of them connected with the Church of Scotland, others with the Church of England. They are all, however, recognized by the state, and receive a certain support from Government.*

In the evening we worshipped in the Great Church of St. Lawrence—a cathedral of immense size, built in 1472. It is capable of holding many thousand persons. There are only a few pews in the whole area. The audience sit on chairs. At the one end is an enclosed place, which is never entered except at the communion, within which it is celebrated; and at the other is an organ reaching from the floor to the roof, and filling the whole space between the pillars. This organ is reputed the finest in the world, except that at Haarlem, which is considered the best. When we entered the service was begun. The audience was upwards of 2000.—They were engaged in praise. Every individual seemed to join, and the singing was such as we had never heard in our own country. There were a richness, and a fulness, and a unity of tone entirely new to us. The different parts were all being sung, but there was no jarring. The voice of the immense multitude was one; and this, uniting with the solemn tones of the organ, and sounding through the arches, and along the roof of the church; formed the sublimest music I ever listened to, and produced an effect that, for the time, was completely overpowering. When will our congregations be able to sing in such a way?

The services were nearly the same as our own. After prayer the scriptures were read. Prayer again was engaged in; and the sermon followed.

* The following is a list of these churches:—Amsterdam two, one Scottish, the other Episcopalian; Antwerp one, Episcopalian; Bruges one, Episcopalian; Dort one, Presbyterian; Flushing one, Episcopalian; The Hague one, Presbyterian; Middleburg one, Presbyterian; Ostend one, Episcopalian; Rotterdam three, One Presbyterian, one Episcopalian, the third English Presbyterian. There were once many more, but they are now either extinct or have merged into the Dutch establishment.