

Church and Manse permanently in a very short time, as we have given a Call to the Reverend Mr. Dyer, who was with us on the last Sundays and is a most talented man, to be so without having had the benefit of a regular Classical Education. Thoroughly acquainted with the Bible, sound in the faith, most fluent and impressive in discourse and especially in prayer, we enjoyed very much the short time he was with us. Never losing an opportunity of bringing forward the most important subjects, and exceedingly instructive in the way he treats them, I wish you could only hear them, especially as in some respects, you would have the advantage of us Landsmen, for Mr. Dyer draws many illustrations from the SEA, to which he was brought up, and to sailors above all others he has still a very warm feeling.

My father, since the month of June, has been in the practice of conducting the devotional exercises of the adherents of our Church here on the Sabbath mornings, meeting them in the Church an hour before Mr. Smellie's congregation assemble, and we not unfrequently remain; and we have occasionally had supplies of Ministers of our own Presbytery. Mr. Smellie's family are in great distress at present from the death of their eldest child, a boy between two Two and Three years old, two days ago, from Fever, terminating in disease of the Brain. I am happy that we are on friendly terms with them; and just now Elizabeth has been a good deal with Mrs. Smellie, whom she is very fond of and thinks highly of and who has always shown a great degree of attachment to us all. The child was buried this afternoon inside the New Church, as they do not intend having a Burying ground round it, although I believe it is proposed to have a new one, a little distance from the Village. As an instance of the footing on which we OLD and NEW lights can meet together, I may mention that at the Funeral my Father was requested to give a Prayer as none of Mr. Smellie's Elders, who were all present, would undertake to officiate, and he did so; and in many respects I am glad to think that there is a better spirit among us than formerly.

As to the long story I have given you about the Free Church, altho' you must have many claims on you, especially from the present distress from failure of the Potato crop; yet if you could do anything, I should only be too glad to be the channel of any contribution. And as to the Old Church, I must just trust to God's enabling us and giving us willing minds ourselves; but I should not like you to let go beyond yourself the mention of the Applications I have made to our friend at Blairgowrie, but merely to forward the enclosure to her safely—which I have left open in order that, if you choose, you may take a look of a sketch of the Free Church and Manse here, which I made the other day, and left the Letter to her without particular address, being uncertain if she still continued to reside at Blairgowrie.