

we still trust that he will be with us next summer. All who really know Mr. Pollok will judge him generously in this matter.

Still another communication from the Colonial Committee, enclosing copies of the foregoing documents, has since been received by the Convener of the H. M. Board. It is as follows:

THE MANSE, DALMEINT, EDINBURGH, }
December 8th, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I am preparing to circulate the enclosed in the Maritime Provinces as next best thing to their being taken out by Mr. Pollok.

Before this can reach you, you will have heard from him the difficulties he feels in his way in the meantime—and his consequent withdrawal of his acceptance of our nomination to the chair.

What the Committee will say to the state of things now—when they meet next week—I do not know.

Meanwhile the steps which, encouraged by Mr. Pollok's acceptance, we have taken, to distinctly define our policy in the resolutions and instruction, we print for circulation among you, have providentially led to a solution of the problem proposed to us by our Brethren in Nova Scotia, which I trust may tend to a settlement that shall prove for good.

Suppose Mr. Pollok resolutely declines the chair, what would your Board advise to be done?

Ever yours, very truly,

ROBERT H. MUIR.

We fully expected to have been able to lay the decision of the Board in reference to this matter before our readers this month, but, although we have delayed publication beyond the usual time, no account has been received of its meeting.

It is with much pleasure we are able to announce the fact, made known to us just before closing our pages, that the Rev. Mr. Patterson, the Colonial Committee's Missionary to the Maritime Provinces, has received and accepted a call from the good people of our Church in St. John's, Newfoundland. Although we expected to see him shortly in Nova Scotia, yet, in the circumstances of that congregation, we forego the anticipated pleasure, and hope the richest blessings may follow the happy meeting.

THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE ON OUR PRESENT CRISIS.

If there is any Body in existence whose voice should be heard by our people, that Body is the Colonial Committee. It represents the Church of Scotland, and it has acted towards us, for long years, with a generosity and a delicacy of sentiment that it is simply impossible to praise too highly. In the preceding communications from it, we now hear its wise and loving voice in this crisis of our history as a Church, and sure we are that the voice will not be disregarded by our people. What, then, does the Colonial Committee say?

1. The Committee declares that its settled policy is to encourage the rearing, in the Colonies, of their own ministry, and to discourage the sending students to Scotland or elsewhere for preparatory education. This does not mean that none of our young men should go to Scotland; but it does mean that if we look to that source for all or our main supply, we act unwisely and in opposition to the policy of the Committee. We think so too. And our Synod has affirmed and reaffirmed the same views. Our sheet anchor must be native talent educated among ourselves. This, too, is the policy of every other Church in the Colonies.

2. In perfect accordance with this policy, the Committee tells us three times, and underlines the statement again and again, to call our attention to the real meaning, that *it exists for the purpose of promoting the religious interests of Scottish Presbyterians abroad who apply to them for assistance*. That is the reason why it does not interfere in our affairs, as it would if we had any organic connection with the Church of Scotland. That is the reason why it will not even offer advice. It says to us, you are simply Scottish Presbyterians abroad, in need of our assistance. You are independent Churches. You are the best judges of your own affairs, and of what measures the country that gave you birth is most in need. We do the Lord's work in Scotland, according to the teachings of His word, as understood by our Fathers, and as expressed in the Confession of Faith. We trust to you to do the same in