

will be seen not in your outward prosperity merely, but in altered lives, and purified hearts, in quickened consciences, a deeper reverence for the word of God, in forgetfulness of self and obedience to the Lord our God. You have called a spiritual teacher to instruct you in those most profound matters which shall occupy your attention not only now but throughout eternity. It is meet that you should give him your earnest attention.

Thus have we endeavored to enumerate a few of your duties, nothing extending and settling down naught in office. We heartily congratulate you upon the tie thus formed. The cordial reception and unanimity of feeling with which you have received your new minister augur well for the future. May the omen be fulfilled.

Finally brethren "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the one to another as good stewards of manifold grace of God."—1 Pet. 4.

"And we beseech you brethren to love them which labour among you, as ye love our Lord and ourselves, as ye love the Lord and as ye love one another, that ye may prosper in your work, and be able to minister the word of truth among yourselves."—1 Thess. 5. 3.

OBITUARY.—Last month, Mr. Duncan McLean, Elder, died after a brief illness at Black Meadows. Deceased was well known in the western part of this county, and in Colchester likewise where he was in Earleton congregation for many years. He took an active part in church. At the last synod of our church, held at Glasgow, he was present as the representative from Earleton congregation. He was of most kindly disposition, and of a long life, and will be much missed by the people who loved and respected him so well. A native of Inverclyde, he came to this country upwards of sixty years ago. With the late

James Gordon and John McLeod, Catechist, and many other worthy men of deeply religious character he took much interest in the *evangelist*, in the preaching of the word, and the general welfare of the church. His death took place at the age of 74 years. Of him it may with truth be said, "The memory of the just is blessed."

PALESTINE AS IT IS.—The population of Syria is stated in consular reports not to exceed the incredibly low figure of 2¼ millions in 26,000 square miles. In the country the people are packed in villages containing 100 to 500 inhabitants, and the grounds of a village will average about ten acres per soul. Two thirds of the peasantry are Moslem. About 40,000 Jews are said to live in Syria, and in Palestine they are found chiefly in the four sacred cities, Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias, and Safed, and in the coast towns. The greater number are poor. The richer class are merchants and traders. The majority of the Jews are Ashkenazim, from Germany, Poland, and Russia. It is said that if fully cultivated, even after the native fashion, Palestine is capable of supporting ten times its present population. The ancient terraces so carefully built up or hewn in the hillsides now produces rich crops—but crops of weeds and thistles. For every inhabited village ten ruined towns are found.—*Lieut. Conder, R.E.*

THE Rev. James Anderson, once of Wallace, has been elected minister of Alvie Church, Aberdeenshire.

THE Rev. D. McKay, late of Gareloch, was last month formally inducted to the pastoral charge of St. Columba Gaelic Church, Paisley. The Rev. F. R. McDonald, a native of this county, acted as Moderator, and addressed minister and people.