

Almighty God, for the late abundant harvest, in accordance with the custom of the Church at Home, when it was agreed to hold the day, which, it was fully anticipated, would be appointed by the Government of the Island for the same purpose. The government accordingly—as usual in former years, appointed the 6th current, of which timely notice had been given to the various congregations throughout the Island. For our part we cannot conceive of anything more pleasing and ominous of good than to find those in Ecclesiastical and civil authority in harmony, acknowledging the God of providence as the fountain of all our blessings—temporal as well as spiritual. Were both to unite, in union of spirit and with heartfelt gratitude, to acknowledge and adore Him, whose is the earth and the fullness thereof, as the Bestower of every good and every perfect gift, and who bestows many of his gifts with rich profusion and an impartial hand—causing his “sun to shine on the evil and the good, and sending rain on the just and on the unjust,” we know nothing which would so fully foreshadow the predicted time, when “all the kingdoms of this world would become the kingdoms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are well aware, that sometimes, and we believe too often, objections are raised against governments interfering in such matters, and especially against the imperative form in which their edicts are usually couched.

But surely if we are bound to obey those in authority in anything, it is especially incumbent on us to be submissive in things not only allowable, but highly commendable.

We for our part (the writer) were much pleased with the manner in which the proclamation was issued, on this occasion; containing as it did, an imperative injunction on all to observe the day, as a day of thanksgiving, with a recommendation to all clergymen, to keep worship in their respective churches. Some will probably say, why not merely give a recommendation in general terms to all. We can conceive very satisfactory reasons why it is absolutely necessary to give a clear and unmistakable injunction or command. Couched, in no other terms, could it have its designed and legitimate effect of restraining from their wonted callings, such as will not be disposed to yield to a recommendation, and preventing them at least from disturbing those in their devotions, who are disposed to render unto God a willing service. And were it only for this reason, which is not the most cogent that might be adduced, the churches ought to feel grateful to Him who is supreme over all, for having put it into the hearts of those who receive all authority from him, to exercise that authority in restraining such as are not willing to render even a bodily service, from exhibiting outward contempt, and thus preventing the undisturbed services of God; among willing and grateful subjects who are required to serve him without distraction.

The said day was observed in St. John's

church, Belfast, when the pastor of the congregation worshipping there, preached in both languages from the words, “Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruit of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” Prov. iii. 9 & 10. At the close of the services a collection was taken up, which was designed to be appropriated, together with sums previously raised—as had been intimated on the previous Lord's day, to pay for certain improvements which are being made in the church. The collection taken up on the occasion amounted to £34 5s. This, we hope, was an indication of some heartfelt gratitude to God, for his great kindness in the harvest, as well as for the preaching of the Word, and a desire to honour the Lord with their substance, by having the house dedicated to His service, presenting a becoming appearance, seeing that he not only causeth the earth to bring forth plentifully for man and for beast, but also adorns the fields and the woods with varied and beautiful hues, fitted to gratify and please the taste of all those purer spirits, who are capable of admiring the beautiful and ornamental, which is so profusely strewed over all God's works,—showing everywhere the traces of the inimitable skill and agency of Him, who, in nature and in grace, is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working.

MINISTER'S WIDOW'S FUND.

A member of the church has to acknowledge the receipt of twenty five shillings from the Rev. A. Matheson, D. D. of Montreal, who, together with his colleague, cheered our church courts and people so much last summer by his presence; as also a similar sum of twenty five shillings, N S. currency, from Mr. Edmonstone, the Dr.'s respected Elder, who accompanied him to our Synod. In the meantime, Mr. Editor, I beg to ask who is the Treasurer or Secretary of said fund? or is it true that friends at a distance afford better proofs of greater regard for the clergyman's interests than those do, who receive the best days and energies of those set over them in the Lord, to watch over their eternal interests? If so, ought they not to be reminded, that those who have to administer spiritual comfort to the desponding and the dying of those committed to their care, should reasonably expect a readiness to make some suitable provision for the temporal wants of those for whom he is bound, both by nature and grace, to entertain a legitimate solicitude, in regard to their comfort, when he has ceased from his labours—solicitude too, which he must cherish in a greater degree, if he has reason to fear they are left among those who are indifferent to their happiness? Waiting to receive your reply, I shall reserve further remarks, which may be made, until I learn whether the friends of the church have been stirred to activity by the rousing appeals which have been addressed to them on this subject, by the above mentioned Rev. Gentleman.

Public Meeting, New Glasgow.

On Wednesday, 19th day of December, a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, New Glasgow, attended by delegates from nearly all the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery in connection with the Church of Scotland viz: From the Town of Pictou, West River, Roger's Hill, Cape John, River John, Salt Springs, Middle River, East Branch, and West Branch, East River, McLennan's Mountain, Barney's River, Lochaber and New Glasgow.

The meeting was convened by order of the Presbytery, for the purpose of adopting measures to provide for the spiritual destitution, which now prevails so extensively among the adherents of the Church of Scotland in this province; and also, for devising means to secure a future supply of Ministerial Labourers.

The meeting being opened by Prayer, John McKay Esq. being chosen chairman, the following Resolutions were proposed consecutively, and unanimously adopted.

First.—Moved by John Holmes, Esq. seconded by Duncan McDonald, Esq.: That this meeting express their sense of gratitude for the benefits which have been conferred upon them by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland in past years; especially for the efforts the Committee made to supply their spiritual wants; and as the meeting represent a large extent of country, they earnestly remind the Committee that great destitution still exists, and would respectfully urge their claim and pray that ministers may be sent out to break the Bread of life among them;—and that John McKay, N. McKay, James Fraser, William Fraser and William Gordon, Esquires, be a Committee to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Scotland, and to bring the destitution which prevails more in detail before the Committee;—and also, that the Presbytery of Pictou be requested to transmit documents to the same effect.

Second.—Moved by Mr. Hugh Ross of River John, seconded by Mr. Alexander Ross of East River; Resolved—that while admitting the desirableness of having a seminary of Education established within the Province for training young men for the ministry, to supply the future wants of the Church in the lower Colonies, yet in the opinion of this meeting, the time has not yet arrived to justify an attempt to maintain such an Institution.

Third.—Moved by Mr. John Campbell of East Branch, seconded by Mr. Duncan Matheson, Middle River: Resolved—that for the purpose of providing in the near time for the future wants of the church, the “Young Men's Scheme,” which has already afforded much satisfaction, be hereafter more liberally supported, and further extended, and that vigorous efforts be made to raise funds, that may enable the Presbytery to add yearly to the number of young