

It was on the second of August we sailed from Portland U. S. for New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and it was on October 2nd, exactly two months after, we left Portland for Toronto, on our return. In addition to my special objects, I had hoped to spend some time in the East and South districts of Nova Scotia, and in the City of St. John's, N. B. It has been matter of deep regret to me that the engagements prospectively made believed to be broken up, and intercourse with these interesting fields suspended for the present. In the old Acadian settlements the aspect of our sister church is exceedingly promising; and the City of St. John's, N. B. can never cease to live in my memory, as the scene of fifteen years' labour of a very near relative of my own, whose name is yet fresh and fragrant there, although the majority of those who enjoyed his Ministry in earlier or in later life, have not been suffered to remain by reason of death. In 1817, when he first settled in St. Andrew's Church, as in some sense the pioneer of the Colonial staff, the city had its ten thousand inhabitants; now its citizens fall not much short of four times that number. The history of Presbyterianism in that city has been somewhat chequered; but the Free Church now numbers, in and around, four congregations; and the prospect is at present more cheering than it has ever been. The brethren have lately been visited by the Deputies of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and we in the Colonies, always prize such visits as refreshing and edifying.

Passing by steam through the Bay of Fundy, we reached Windsor N. S. by six in the morning of August 3rd, and arrived at Halifax, by Railway 45 miles, early in the forenoon. Our arrival was hailed with much cordial kindness by the worthy family whose hospitality we enjoyed during our stay in the City; and a whole host of old and much attached friends clustered around us, all vying with one another in their offices of friendship. The congregation of Chalmers' Church I found in a healthy state under the pastoral charge of the Rev. John Hunter, who succeeded Dr. Forrester, on the appointment of that gentleman to the superintendence of Education in the Province. We had much agreeable intercourse with Mr. Hunter, as also Professors King and Lyall of the Free College, and with Mr. MacKnight, the Hebrew Tutor, who has also the pastoral charge of Dartmouth. My earnest wish and prayer are, that the health of all these gentlemen may be preserved in vigor, and that their important labours, in the several departments allotted to them, may be crowned with goodly success. Great hopes are entertained of an union being consummated between the two branches of the Presbyterian body, which seem to approximate nearest to each other in sentiment; but whatever may be the issue of this matter, there is much in the condition of the Free Church of Nova Scotia to fan the zeal and concentrate the energies of its members. The College has been eminently successful in sending forth promising young men into the field; and one pleasing feature in my late tour has been the opportunity given me of holding intercourse with a considerable number of the Ministers who have been the first fruits of an Institution so valuable.

One Sabbath I spent at Halifax, on my way to Newfoundland, and another on my return. I had also an opportunity of visiting and addressing the Sabbath School of Chalmers' Church; and on the Tuesday after the first of these sabbaths, we enjoyed, in common with many friends, a pleasant social meeting of the teachers and pupils of all the schools in connection with the Free Church; embracing those of Chalmers' Church, Dutchtown and Dartmouth. Between 200 and 300 pupils attended. Addresses suitable to the occasion were de-

livered by Ministers and lay friends. A corresponding member from Cornwallis, 70 miles distance, attended, taking a lively interest in the meeting; and the occasion was gratifying to the elastic minds of the young, as well as to the more matured feelings of their seniors. This rural fete took place in a grove, not many minutes distance from the City.

On Friday morning, August 13th, we sailed for Newfoundland in the Steamer Osprey, one of the vessels connected with the Cunard Line, and which pays a fortnightly visit to that Island from Halifax, calling at Sydney, C. B. on her way to and from. Our voyage of 600 miles was prosperous, Captain Sampson being attentive to his passengers, and all on board anxious to promote each other's comfort. We spent Sabbath 15th at sea, and had public worship on board, when all the Protestant portion of the inmates of the vessel gave devout attendance. On Monday we were sailing along the strong iron bound coast of Newfoundland, and at four o'clock of the afternoon of that day, we landed at St. John's, the capital of the Island, passing through the picturesque "narrows," as the entrance is called, and announcing by the successive booming of our ship's brass cannon the arrival of Her Majesty's Mail at this the most venerable of Her Colonial possessions. "The Bay of St. John's" is just one of perhaps sixty, round and round the coast of the Island, characterized by the like features of security from storms and invasions. The choice of it for the Capital was made three centuries ago, and nothing has occurred to render the wisdom of the selection questionable. It is at once safe and commodious, its waters deep, and its position relatively to the island as a whole, and its bearing on the home connections with the east, just what might be desired. The wharf was covered by hundreds, serenading the entrance of the Osprey, and welcoming friends and visitors. Among the rest we soon saw the face of our excellent friend the Rev. Mr. Harvey, who with several members of his congregation including the kind-hearted Editor of a "Tri-weekly" gave us a right hearty welcome. Not many minutes elapsed ere we realised from our own experience, what we knew from report before, that Newfoundland and St. John's were proverbial for kindness and hospitality.

Newfoundland was discovered by Cabot, in 1497, and its history is associated with such eminent names as those of Gilbert, Raleigh, and Lord Bacon; and this last sage, on being asked his opinion of the mineral resources of the island, gave it as his impression that the best of all its minerals were the Cod and the Seals. The company of which his Lordship was a Director, did nothing to explore the internal resources of the island; but an American Association has within these few years done something, and promises to do more for developing that valuable treasure. Mr. Cormack in 1822, traversed, in company with a single Indian, the central parts of the Island, and from his statements, which I have just perused, there can be no doubt that the resources in agriculture, in minerals, in fisheries, and in woods abounding with deer, have been as yet scarcely touched. Mr. Pege has also favored me with the "Geological Report" by Mr. Juxon, the sketches in which form a rich repast to those who are conversant with such researches. I do not dwell on those topics, but I venture an inference—Let the Island remain in our exclusive possession and let our rulers at home settle with France and America as best they may, only let us keep what we have.

It is more than thirty years ago since a church in connection with the Scotch establishment was set up in St. John's. The number of resident settlers of the Presbyterian denomination had considerably increased, and the congregation was organized under the Rev. Donald

Frazer, whom they called from Lunenburg, N. S. At the time of the disruption, great efforts were made to retain the whole in connection with the Church of Scotland; but a series of circumstances in the providence of God, led to the formation of the present Free Church. The attention of the Home Colonial Committee and of the Presbytery of Halifax was early called to the help of the struggling society, and by the correspondence and personal visits of ministers, and of the Home Colonial Committee matters were brought into a promising state. Dr. McLeod, now of Cape Breton, was, on his return voyage as a Deputy of the church at home, shipwrecked on the coast, and this event was over-ruled for good. He remained for six weeks in St. John's, and was eminently useful in giving information and advice, while the congregation was consolidated and cheered by his preaching and his visits. Two-thirds of the people adhered to our principles, and they brought along with them the piety, and the sound views, and the strict discipline which constitute the main elements of a flourishing Christian society. The congregation had to struggle with difficulties, arising from the loss of property and other causes, but they have stood firm to the cause of the Redeemer—having reared a very neat and commodious place of worship, admirably located, and filled by a united body of sincere and affectionate fellow-worshippers. For six years they have flourished under the pastoral care of the Rev. Moses Harvey, formerly of Maryport in Cumberland—a gentleman who seems highly qualified for the situation he occupies, by talents and acquirements which command respect, by a piety at once unaffected and warm, and by a measure of prudence, good sense, and sound judgment rarely exemplified. Besides his pulpit labors, and pastoral visits, and sabbath schools and classes, Mr. H. has been in the habit of delivering, during the winter season, short courses of lectures on subjects of a general nature, but bearing on religion, such as—The connection of science with revelation; The discoveries of Lavoisier and others; The poetry of the heathens; and on these subjects he has edified and instructed his own people and many others, by publishing as well as delivering these valuable prolections.

Of the two sabbaths spent in Newfoundland, one was given to St. John's and the other to Harbor Grace, and these are the only free churches as yet in the island. In addition, I preached in St. John's on two week evenings, and addressed the classes both on a sabbath and on a weekday evening, after a very pleasant "gathering of the clans," on the grounds adjoining the residence of the minister. With the leading families of the congregation our intercourse was frequent and of the most friendly character. We cannot look back on the days we spent among these intelligent and liberal-hearted people, without the most grateful recollections. Indeed, it is to the spontaneous and hearty liberality of the friends in Halifax, in St. John's, and Harbor Grace, I am indebted for all the expenditure incurred within the Lower Provinces. The experiment which has been made satisfies me that, whether a "federal union" among the British Provinces is realized or not, such an union among the churches is highly desirable; and the occasional interchanges of visits which would ensue, could not fail to advance that cause which is common to them all.

In the department of education in St. John's an important place is occupied in the academy by an intelligent and pious member of the Free Church, Mr. Scott, formerly of Edinburgh. Mr. Scott assists Mr. Harvey in taking charge of a Bible Class. In Harbor Grace Mr. Reidick, one of the members, holds a similar situation. It must be the prayer of every one alive to the best interest,