

ness of the Divine ordinances through which they are kept in memory of their spiritual wants, and are led to seek the gift of eternal life, and keeping you from fainting in your ministrations, and in making you faithful and unwearied in all watchfulness and self-denial to which you may be called in proof of your ministry.

While many of you, moreover, dwelling far apart from brethren in the ministry, are thus deprived of the brotherly counsel and encouragement by which you might be sustained and profited, we would bid you be assured of the earnest sympathy and regard which yet many brethren cherish toward you,—of the honored nature of the service in which your labour is employed,—and of the Divine presence and grace which never fail for them who go forward in God's work, depending on His aid.

We rejoice to hear of your continued attachment to the Church of Scotland. Not regarding the blessing of Divine grace as confined to those only who are of our own communion, and desiring to maintain the spirit of unity and concord with those who are of other Christian communions, and to unite with them in good works, we are fully persuaded of the Scriptural character of our Church, and of its fitness, through the Divine blessing, to afford Christian privileges, and to promote the edifying of the body of Christ.

It will continue to be our anxious wish to encourage young men of piety and zeal to join you in your labours in our Master's service,—men who will do credit to those by whom they are sent, and will give real help to those with whom they are sent to be fellow-labourers.

It will gladden us ever to hear of your prosperity and steadfastness, and, beseeching you in faith and hope to hold fast the profession you have witnessed, and to maintain the character which will adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour, we commend you to God and to His grace, praying Him to bless and prosper you ever more and more.

In name and by appointment of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, met at Edinburgh, May, 1859.

JOHN COOK, D.D.,  
Moderator.

The Commission refer the foregoing letter to the Synod to be considered and disposed of as they shall see meet, and in the meantime direct the Moderator of this meeting to write to the Rev. the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, acknowledging its receipt, and conveying the gratitude of the Commission to the Parent Church for the kind expressions of remembrance, sympathy and goodwill which it contains, and instruct the Clerk to ask the conductors of *The Presbyterian* to allow it to appear in their paper.

The Commission, having had their attention directed to the recent melancholy event whereby the only son of His Excellency the Governor General was drowned while bathing in the River St. Maurice, agree to record their sincere condolence with His Excellency in this sad bereavement and their prayer to Him who alone can heal the stricken heart, that He would bless and sanctify His dispensation to those to whom He has sent it. The Commission instruct their Clerk to forward an extract of this minute to His Excellency.

There was read a letter from the Rev. Kenneth MacLennan, minister of Paisley

showing the extent and nature of the missionary labour in which, beside his ordinary pastoral duties, he is engaged in a newly settled and remote part of the Province, and also the privations to which he has been subjected in consequence of the recent general depression, the effects of which have been felt in that district with particular severity, and praying the Commission to represent his case to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, with the view of procuring for him some pecuniary relief. The Commission direct the Clerk to return the said letter to Mr. MacLennan with suggestions thereon, and to ask him for another copy thereof for transmission to the Colonial Committee, and in transmitting the same on receipt to communicate the full confidence of the Commission in the vast importance to the Church of sustaining Mr. MacLennan's labours, and their earnest recommendation to the Committee to take the case into consideration and to grant such relief as they may be able to give. Closed with prayer.

#### ORDINATION OF A JEWISH MISSIONARY.

On Thursday, Oct. 6th, in St. Andrew's Church, the Rev. Ephraim M. Epstein, M.D., about to proceed to Turkey as Presbyterian Missionary to his countrymen, the Jews, was ordained by the Presbytery of Kingston to the work of the holy ministry. Although the hour appointed—two o'clock—was one which doubtless kept away many who would otherwise have attended, still the church was nearly filled with an attentive audience, who showed, in the solemnity of their demeanor, the sympathy they felt with the proceedings of this deeply interesting occasion.

At a previous meeting Dr. Epstein delivered his trial discourses and passed the usual examination to which candidates for the ministry are subjected. His trials were sustained as being highly satisfactory. The following members of Presbytery were present, Rev. Professor Mowat, M. A., Moderator, Dr. Machar, Mr. Neil, Dr. Williamson, Dr. George and Mr. Buchan, and the following ministers, who were invited to take part in the proceedings, Rev. George Bell and Rev. George Macdonnell from the Presbytery of Hamilton, and the Rev. W. Snodgrass from the Presbytery of Montreal.

After devotional exercises had been conducted by the Rev. George Macdonnell, of Fergus, the Rev. Professor Mowat preached a most appropriate sermon from Luke xii, 47. He enforced the claims of the Jewish nation upon the exertions of Christians from their having been the chosen people of God, encompassed from the earliest ages by His special love and protection, from their being the countrymen of those through whose instrumentality we have received the Scriptures, and, above all, the kinsmen according to the flesh of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He dwelt upon the many facilities afforded for gaining access to them, especially among unbelieving nations, where every other door is closed to the Christian missionary, and upon the intimations of prophecy that in *their* conversion they are to become the means of conversion to the rest of the unconverted world. And he added, even if the time for the full accomplishment of these prophecies be yet far distant, it is not more so than when the first apostles went forth burning with faith and love to spend and be spent for their conversion.

The sermon being concluded, Prof. Mowat, after briefly explaining the object of the meeting, addressed to Dr. Epstein the queries appointed in the forms of the Church. Dr. Epstein, having given the usual replies, and taken the solemn vows of ordination, was then, by "the laying-on of the hands of the Presbytery," solemnly set apart to the work of the Ministry, while an impressive prayer was offered up for a blessing upon the newly ordained missionary. The right hand of fellowship was then given by each of the ministers present, and Dr. Epstein cordially welcomed as a brother and fellow-laborer Prof. Mowat then gave a solemn and impressive "charge," reminding the missionary of his need for zeal, love, humility and earnest faith when embarked upon his arduous undertaking—bringing forward the example of personal unworthiness and burning zeal and love shown in such instances as those of Martyr, Brainard, Jonathan Edwards and Whitefield. He impressed upon him the importance of making the Word of God his daily guide, and drawing from it the strength necessary to sustain him in his labors. He reminded him, as an encouragement in his distant labors, that he left many behind whose affectionate interest and whose daily prayers would accompany him and his in their work; that, while they now took leave of him with sorrow, as feeling that many of them must expect to see his face no more, they yet rejoiced that he was entering as *their* missionary upon labours in whose result they would feel a deep and *personal* interest. Though they might never, on earth, know even the names of those who should be converted through his instrumentality, they would feel a joyful gratitude to God throughout eternity in having been honored as the instruments of placing them in contact with the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

The Rev. Dr. Machar, as having been longer engaged in the work of the ministry than any of the brethren present, followed in a short address of affectionate admonition and encouragement. He expressed his satisfaction that his short acquaintance with Dr. Epstein had been such as to enable him unhesitatingly to offer the right hand of fellowship to take part in the ministry, and to say to him from the heart, God speed. He urged upon him the necessity of Christian consistency in a position so scrutinizingly watched—of purity and unselfishness of aim—and of love to the souls of those among whom he is to labor. He reminded him of the encouragements in his work; that it was the "Lord of all," his gracious and loving Saviour who was calling him to it; that it was the "glad tidings," of the Gospel of peace which he was to carry to his "kinsfolk according to the flesh," and that his fidelity in his labors would prove to himself a rich blessing through life and at the hour of death. He then addressed a few words to the congregation, impressing upon them *their* duties towards the newly ordained missionary, in contributing ungrudgingly to his support, and in supplicating for him and his fellow-missionaries to the Jews that power from on High which may bring down a rich blessing on God's ancient people, and yield to themselves the high privilege of bearing a part in the glorious work of their conversion.

After prayer and praise the benediction was pronounced, and the interesting ordination of this the first missionary to the Jews, sent forth by a Canadian Church, was concluded.

We must not omit to mention, as a circumstance giving additional interest to the events of the day, the presence of Mr. Freshman, formerly Rabbi of the Jewish Synagogue at Quebec, and lately converted to Christianity. He is at present visiting Kingston with the intention of lecturing here, and it is to be hoped he will receive a cordial welcome. Mr. Fresh-