

distant date, and, of course, will then withdraw from them the support which it now affords.

The most remarkable feature in the history of this building is the unanimity of the people with regard to it, and the cheerfulness and punctuality with which subscriptions are being paid up by the people at the Mines, considering that very few of them have more than a month's tenure of any office which they now hold.

In other localities, party spirit may have incited men to emulation in the building of Churches; but among the people of the Mines, especially the Scotch miners, such a spirit is almost unknown. While they cherish a filial attachment to the Church of their fathers, they wish God speed to all other Christian denominations. Though this movement was merely suggested by Mr. Pollok, it has now become a cheerfully spontaneous and simultaneous action.

May we not, then, indulge the hope, that Divine Providence has some gracious design in influencing the minds of men, in such circumstances, to make such sacrifices for the erection of a costly building to the honor of His great name? The whole cost amounts to about £650—the half of which is already paid, and the balance forthcoming.

Divine service has been held in St. John's Church every Sabbath evening since it was opened, attended by crowded and attentive audiences. This extra and gratuitous service devolves chiefly upon Mr. Pollok, whose conduct with regard to this Church, in every particular, gives the most unmistakable evidence of his desire to "spend and be spent" for this portion of his flock, without interfering with the discharge of his duties to his congregation in general. H.

Albion Mines, April, 1864.

Letter from Rev. John I. Baxter, Onslow, to Rev. Wm. M. Philip, Truro.

To the Editor of the Monthly Record:

DEAR SIR:—

Would you kindly insert in your next number of the Church of Scotland Record, the enclosed letter addressed to me by the Rev'd Mr. Baxter, U. P. minister, Onslow:

MANSEFIELD, ONSLOW, 1st April, 1864.

REV. WM. M. PHILIP.

Dear Brother:—In your report to your Presbytery at Halifax, dated 3rd February, and published in the March No. of the *Monthly Record*, there are a few observations respecting one of the sections of my congregation, which are calculated to produce a wrong impression: and though now satisfied that they were not so designed, I beg leave thus to point them out for publication in the same channel. They may be found at folio 53rd, under the head of "North River," as follows: "Between two and three months ago, the Presbyterian congregation worshipping in a recently finished Church on the West Branch of the North River, about three

miles distant from our usual meeting house, solicited me to divide my monthly services between them and the people on the East Branch." "The Rev'd Mr. Baxter has hitherto acted as minister at this station, and the congregation are professionally in connection with the United Presbyterian body; but the building is the property of the congregation themselves, and is held in trust for them by certain of their own members," &c., &c.

Now, passing over the first sentence, in consequence of the explanations which have passed between us in a personal interview, the second might be understood as signifying, that, though I had *hitherto* acted as minister, I was not doing so now; whereas, though serious difficulties have lately occurred in that section, which at one time threatened a disruption, yet in consequence of the session grappling with them, they are being subdued, and that communion does not affect my pastoral connection with them, as an integral part of Onslow congregation.

Then again, though the Church is the property of the shareholders, it is in connection with the "Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia," now "of the Lower Colonies," by their original agreement, and our Synod has also a pecuniary interest in it, to the amount of £20 currency, including my own subscription.

I might refer in like manner to some minor points in two or three sentences that follow the above extract, but as I am satisfied from our personal interview that you neither intended to treat me unjustly or uncourtously, nor to misrepresent the facts of the case, as far as you were acquainted with them, I deem it unnecessary; and therefore only add, that if our intercourse continues as hitherto, honest, open and honorable, as it ought to be between brethren, I will anticipate much pleasure in meeting you from time to time as a fellow labourer in the great vineyard of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I remain, Rev. Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN I. BAXTER.

I desire to add that I sincerely regret that the sentence in my Report stating that "the Rev'd Mr. Baxter had hitherto acted as minister of this (the West Branch) station" was calculated to produce the impression that he had ceased to officiate there at stated intervals as formerly. I certainly did not mean to convey this impression, although I see, on my attention being drawn to the words, that a stranger would probably adopt this opinion. The fact of Mr. Baxter's continued connection with the congregation at the West Branch being so well known here, is, no doubt, the reason of my having (undesignedly) penned a sentence by which a stranger might be misled.

The other parts of Mr. Baxter's letter speak for themselves. On this, as on every other occasion, our intercourse has been marked by mutual confidence and respect, and judging from the courteous and christian tone in which he has both spoken and written, I confidently hope and trust that nothing will ever occur to diminish our cordiality, or impair our usefulness as ministers of that blessed Gospel which speaketh "peace on earth and good will among men."

WM. M. PHILIP.

Truro, 4th April, 1864.