

mend us, if not now, at least as soon as practicable to the noble example of the threefold branch of the same household of faith in the Golden Colony. The giving of the result then in the Lochiel Congregation is all we have in view in adverting to the era of the Disruption in this connection. As to the result then it is readily confessed that no inconsiderable minority seceded (and who doubts the purity of their motives?) whilst the great body of the Congregation felt convinced that here at least there was no earthly occasion to leave a connection in which they had all along enjoyed all the liberty possible or desirable. No means could induce them—to their credit be it known—to relinquish their honest and intelligent convictions. And their adhesion is rather the more remarkable, that they were now without a settled leader, and that besides they had to withstand the influence exerted by prominent emissaries to the seceded party. Foremost among these was the shrewd Mr. McMillan, of recent and world-wide notoriety; and also the worthy and eminent Dr. Walter M'Gillivray, whose preaching sojourn here for upwards of a year has left salutary impressions on others besides the seceded party. Yet neither the eloquence of the one nor the acknowledged tact of the other, has availed to draw away more than a minority. And 'tis matter of gratitude to the Church's Head that from continuous accessions since then the Church has been replenished, so that now in strength and numbers the Congregation is equal to its standing at the Disruption; and we make this statement in perfect consistency with our best wishes for the success of the seceded body. We are far from envious in making the statement that they also have grown to be a large congregation; for in this we see the hand of Divine Providence overruling a movement, in itself apparently disastrous, for the enkindling of new zeal and activity and the consequent extension of Zion's borders. I must here observe that, should a similar spirit of fraternal intercourse and sympathy pervade all others as pervades these two large Churches (alongside each other), the desired union, theoretically held by all, would speedily be consummated. Permit me further to digress by giving as a single instance of this intercourse the Christian fellowship of these congregations and their respective ministers at a recent Communion season, when both Bishops officiated alternately in dispensing in the same pulpit the bread of life to the same audience.

But, taking leave now of this off-shoot, and returning to our own, I should remark that it were ungrateful here to ignore the good services done by those who were providentially instrumental in keeping the Lochiel church together, and securing to them a temporary and permanent ministration of the Word. In this respect there

are a number who deserve the benediction of the church of our Fathers. Among others that might be named is the Revd. Dr. McLeod of Morven, whose mission at the era of the lamented contest was quite opportune. But chief among these is one whose timely and indefatigable efforts in behalf of the Lochiel people deserve an encomium which a feeling of delicacy forbids me here to bestow. I mean the Rev. Thomas McPherson of Lancaster. The self-sacrificing efforts of this laborious workman, time and again, for their spiritual interests, to say nothing of his beneficence as medical adviser, whilst his own large charge required all his efforts at home and other important vacancies around also demanded and received a share of his attention, are such services as have their best reward in the lasting gratitude of a deserving flock, and their best encomium in the welcome plaudit of the chief Shepherd. Thus through him, as the apparent instrument, was the ark of the Covenant here borne successfully over the angry crests of the assailing billows which had interrupted her progress, and guided into a course, if not of such active prosperity as we hope to see her enjoy, at least not less favourable than could be expected under circumstances of long vacancies and variety of adverse influences.

Such then were the circumstances of the parish when in 1856, and after another long vacancy of 12 years, the Revd. Donald Macdonald from Kingston College was inducted into the pastoral charge, to fulfil, as was fondly hoped, a long pastorate. But this fond hope of grateful and devoted parishioners was not to be realized. This young pastor for whom they had waited so long, and whose genial intercourse and sympathy with his countrymen, and especially whose rare fluency in the use of his native Gaelic, had rendered him so attractive to his flock, was obliged by ill-health to relinquish the charge of his devoted flock even within a 3 years' probation. But, whilst heartily acquiescing in this mysterious providence that had "smitten the shepherd" and left the flock once more open to inroads, yet they are cheered by the intelligence that a merciful Providence has again restored his health, and enables him to pursue his former vocation in his native parish; whilst they themselves have just passed through the harmonious ordeal of another pastoral induction.

But, to bring these remarks, unexpectedly prolonged, to an immediate close, let me note then, in dismissing the subject, what can hardly fail being impressed on every observer, the never-failing goodness and superintending care of the Great Shepherd over this flock throughout their pilgrimage. In their deliverance from threatening dangers, in apportioning them a goodly heritage, in perpetuating their name as a Christian congregation, in the various manifestations of His presence for their com-

fort amid every sea of trouble and every furnace of trials—in all these their kindly Shepherd and covenant-keeping God has given the Lochiel Church the signal fulfilment of that everlasting promise which has often buoyed-up the heart of the child of affliction. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned . . . . for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." AN OBSERVER.

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