

No XIV.

Synod of Nova Scotia.

Extract of a letter, dated Pictou, 12th July, 1844. "There are 12 ministers for the Free Church, and 8 still clinging to the Establishment. May the Lord himself cause some of our brethren in Scotland to come to our help. Oh, be earnest in prayer to God, that we may be soon supplied with earnest and devoted men; that our destitute vineyard may be watered and refreshed."

No. XV.

State of Cape Breton.

It may be proper to remind the Free Church of Scotland that, notwithstanding the zealous and successful efforts which have been made during the last fifteen years in behalf of this Island, there are large settlements entirely Scottish and Presbyterian, where the labours of a settled pastor have hitherto been unknown, or which are at present destitute of a pastor. For instance: there are three localities, the Gut of Canso, River Inhabitants, and River Benny, comprising altogether a population of 199 families, and 1250 souls—forming together, a suitable charge for one laborious and active minister. There are Wycockama and Meligowatch, lately under the charge of Mr. Patrick Maclean, now of the Island of Mull; embracing together 341 families, and 2197 souls; with three places of worship, capable of holding from 4 to 500 each. There are great and little Bedeque, with 51 families, and 300 souls; and two churches. There is the north point of the Island, with about sixty families, where no minister has ever been settled, and where the frame of a church only has been reared. There is the rear settlement on the north-west arm of Sydney Bay, comprising 40 families, all Gaelic. There are Myra and Gaberoose Lake, a large settlement of 223 families, and 1280 souls, who never had a minister; and contiguous to this, is another large settlement, Catalase and Co-Bay, 198 families, with 1198 souls. One minister might take charge of the three settlements, and there are already three places of worship reared, though not seated. There is the Grand River and Lakes, 1200 souls, where no minister was ever settled; and at Areshat there are 50 Presbyterian families. Other settlements might be noticed, but these may suffice to shew the destitution. The Gaelic language would be needed for all these settlements, as well as for the greater part of Prince Edward Island.

It is worthy of notice, that the only Normal School for ordinary training in Nova Scotia, is in this island of Cape Breton. The teacher, Mr. Munro, has sent out a number of excellent young teachers. Mr. Lauchlan McDonald, also at St. George's Channel, has been for several years a most useful instructor of youth; and as a female teacher, Miss Gordon has been very successful.

All that has been done for the evangelizing of this Island by ministers and schools, is the result of the persevering efforts of a pious lady in Edinburgh; and her success, while it must be very pleasing to her own mind, presents an encouraging example to others. It is Christian education which is to raise the British Colonies to eminence, and the Free Church of Scotland is now loudly called on to impart to them a boon so valuable.