

students, while both the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church, but especially the former, are loudly complaining of the want of suitable candidates for their ministry. For any sake, preserve us from the infliction of a clergy whom too exclusive learning in mere elements has unfitted for large study in more useful fields of knowledge, or rendered emaciated in body and ruined in health, or, what is a far greater curse than all, reduced to the most revolting pedantry, and handed over to the dominion of a most unlovely self-conceit. What we want sorely is a greater infusion of hidden life and active energy into the hearts and minds of our aspirants to the ministry of souls, and a more solemn impression of the responsibility of the sacred office. With these desiderata supplied, and the present standard of literary qualifications kept up, the Church of Scotland would, I am persuaded, become omnipotent.

In concluding this brief and necessarily cursory review of the principal features of the Church's supreme Court, I must not omit to mention that, among the usual Reports of the Schemes, that of the Colonial mission called forth special interest. Its encouraging amendments of former success continued, and of fresh undertakings begun, were subject-matter of real gratification. I observe, with regard to Nova Scotia, that you have obtained valuable accessions to your staff of ministers within the past year. I have heard much of all who have so recently gone out, and can hear more than hearsay testimony to the talent and usefulness of at least two of these. And, while I am on this subject, I may be allowed to express the great pleasure I had lately in meeting with and receiving the very highest accounts of the several students who,—natives of your colony,—are preparing for ordination by the Church here to vacant charges in the country, of their fathers' adoption. I am sure it will give sincere joy to the friends of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, as well as to those at present more immediately concerned, to know that they whom they sent home to acquire the benefit of a full College education, are so much respected, and are regarded as among the best students in their University. It will be a proud and happy day when your pages record their arrival at Halifax or Pictou crowned with Academic honors and stamped with the imprimatur of the good old Church of Scotland!

I had intended to dwell at some length on the proposed Union of the Free Church with the Voluntaries. But, feeling that I have already transgressed all reasonable limits, I must now close. And I am the more reconciled to the dismissal at present of so important a subject, as I may be able, very shortly, with your kind leave, to give a better idea of the probabilities and effect of such an event taking place. One thing is sure. It cannot be for three years at least, as, by the laws of both the contracting parties, any proposition

so vital must run the gauntlet of all the Presbyteries. That it will be eventually consummated, I think, is generally believed. In any case, however, the Church has nothing to fear. Even though no reaction, such as seems almost imminent, should take place in her favor among those who left her in '43, she is abundantly able, in her present position, to hold her ground as, in all respects, the Church of the Nation.

The Colonial Church and Foreign Missions.

MANSE BELFAST, P. E. ISLAND, N. A.

Permit me to take the liberty to request of you the insertion of the accompanying advertisement in your first issue. (See our Advertising List, under the heading "Nova Scotia.")

As a Church, we felt, from our first organization, the claims of our destitute and perishing brethren in heathen lands. But while we felt these claims, there were many, and apparently insurmountable, obstacles in our way to engage in the Foreign Mission field. We were few in number. Some of our congregations were not wealthy, and several of them were destitute of stated ordinances.—These difficulties have not yet been altogether removed; but recognising in the express command of our Lord the undoubted rule of duty, our Synod, two years ago, resolved to take measures for ascertaining the sentiments of our people, and to what extent they were prepared to support our undertaking—a Foreign Mission Scheme. The result was a generous and noble response on their part.—With very little effort a sufficient amount was secured to warrant us in deciding, without any hesitation, to adopt the scheme. The committee had a serious difficulty in selecting their field. Our feelings were strongly drawn towards those stations in the East already partly occupied by the Church of Scotland, but the limited character of our means would not permit us to carry our desires in this respect into effect. We were therefore obliged to turn our attention to the South Pacific, and to resolve on selecting one of the islands there as our field of operations.

We have now the means secured, and the field of labour agreed upon; but there is still before us the serious difficulty of procuring the services of a missionary qualified for the work, and imbued with the spirit required for the labours and the self-denials of the mission field. To secure this, our first look is towards the Church of our fathers. We cannot offer any great worldly inducements. We can only offer to provide a maintenance sufficient to secure to our missionary the means of a comfortable living. The amount required for this we know, from the experience of the several Presbyterian missionaries