

connexion should be entered into the French Canadian Church, similar to that subsisting between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, and their brethren in the Colonies.

REV. PRINCIPAL CUNNINGHAM.—We regret to observe that, Dr. Cunningham, Principal of the New College, Edinburgh, has been severely indisposed, and that the sight of one of his eyes has been impaired. He hopes, however, to be able to go through the ordinary work of the Session.

REFORMED CONFERENCE AT ELBERFELD.—A Conference of brethren of the Reformed Church in Germany, lately took place at Elberfeld. Much inconvenience has resulted from the want of any bond of union hitherto. It was proposed to establish an institution for the more perfect instruction of Theological Students in the peculiar doctrines of the Reformed Church.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—The Autumn Meeting of the Union took place in the end of October, at Halifax. Various matters of importance occupied the attention of the Union. Dr. Alliot, the chairman, referred in earnest terms to the importance of exciting deeper interest in the state of Theological Colleges.

REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.—A deep and pervading movement appears to be going on in Scotland. In Aberdeen, daily union prayer-meetings are held in the County rooms and are attended by people of every rank and of every denomination. Mr. Brownlow North and other pious laymen, have been preaching with the happiest results.

SOCIAL SCIENCE.—A Conference of the friends of Social Science, was lately held. Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Brougham, the Hon. W. F. Cooper, Dr. Begg of Edinburgh, and many others who are interested in the improvement of the masses, took part in the proceedings.

SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN SERVICE IN PARIS.—Arrangements have been made for establishing a Scottish Service in Paris. Principal Tulloch of St. Andrews, is to conduct the services for eight months in the year.

MORAVIAN MISSIONS.—The Moravians have, at present, 73 Mission Stations, connected with which are 74,187 adherents, of whom 21,000 are communicants. Their operations have been greatly extended within the last thirty-five years.

HUNGARIAN PROTESTANTS.—The Hungarian Protestants are again about to apply to the Emperor for permission to superintend their own Schools, and hold a Synod; but they do not appear to think that attention will be paid to their application. There is some power in the State which apparently opposes the Imperial will; for some ago the liberty prayed for was ordered by the Emperor to be granted, but it has never been enjoyed.

DEATH OF DR. PAUL OF TULLYNESSIE.—We observe, in late papers, notice of the death of the Rev. Dr. Paull, of Tullynessie, who has been a Minister of the Church of Scotland for

upwards of fifty years, and, who for many years took a leading part in the Church Courts.

MEETING OF EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—A meeting of the Evangelical Alliance took place in the end of October at Liverpool. Among those present were Lord Benholme, Rev. Dr. Raffles, Rev. Dr. Wylie, Mr. Henderson, of Park, P. Scott, Edinburgh, Sir C. E. Fardley, Rev. Dr. Brown, of Aberdeen, &c., &c. Several ministers from Edinburgh were absent in consequence of communion arrangements. The following were the principal subjects which engaged the attention of the Conference:—The Need of Union—Missionary Efforts in India—the Confessional in England—and Maynooth. The Rev. Dr. Patton, of New York, gave an interesting account of the Revival in the United States. There was a warm discussion on the Maynooth question. The general feeling seemed to be against any settlement by compromise.

SYNOD OF NEW YORK.—At the late meeting of the Synod of New York, of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., a Resolution was passed, approving of the action of the American Tract Society, in reference to Slavery, and recommending the Society to the sympathy and liberality of the congregations.

Communications, &c.

VISIT TO CAPE BRETON.

BY DR. BURNS.

KNOX'S COLLEGE,
TORONTO, NOV. 4, 1868.

Tyre has a name in history, both sacred and civil, and the ruins of Old Tyre are most graphically and characteristically described in prophetic record as places on which "fishermen would spread their nets." What the ruins of Tyre are in the East, those of the once famed town and fortress of Louisbourg are in the West. Macgregor, indeed, in his excellent history of the British Colonies, imputes to "fanaticism" the capture of this city and fortress in 1745, because it was the preaching of Whitfield that formed the proximate cause of that bold undertaking on the part of a few merchants and farmers of New England, which humbled the pride of France, and led to the extinction of her empire in North America. The colonial historian perhaps had forgotten his own acknowledgment elsewhere, that the Jesuits and the "freres" and the St. Sulpice "Sisters" of Cape Breton, were the great "hounds on" of the poor Micmacs, in their scalping experiments on defenceless Englishmen.

It has been said that the destruction of its capital threw the island beyond the limits of vision. It may be so, for assuredly Britain has up to this moment shut her eyes on a colonial gem, compared with which Ceylon or Jamaica are baubles. Its agriculture and its woods are most valuable, its minerals and fisheries are boundless, and its local situation, relatively to Europe and America, make it the very Thermopylae of the West. Its population is sixty thousand, but its capabilities will suffice easily for ten times that number. Down to the close of the American war, when a few loyalists settled in it, the island was absolutely ignored by the mother country. It was not till the beginning of the present century that Cape Breton was thought of as a field for emigration.

The first settlers were Scotch Roman Catholics from Barra, South Uist, Harris, and the Lewis, and being the first, they very naturally and laudably, chose the best of the land. The eastern half of the island is still theirs, but fishing has occupied their attention more than agriculture, and the best of their farms are mortgaged. About 1810 the "clearings" of the North drove away many valuable Protestant families from their loved native abodes, and for twenty years successive colonies of these reached Cape Breton, and settled principally in the south-east, western and northern parts. At first they were poor and dispirited; nevertheless they have done, on the whole, well, and are now in a fair thriving state. One fact is sufficient to show the progress of the Island. In 1832, when Macgregor published his history, "one school" at Sydney is mentioned; now (1858) there are about one hundred schools.

It was in 1827 my acquaintanceship with the late Mrs. Mackay, of Rockfield, Sutherlandshire, began. At that time her attention was directed to the state of the emigrants from her own county to Merigonish, Earleton, New Lairg, and the district around Pictou, Nova Scotia. Her first efforts were directed to the sending out well-selected libraries of religious books for the use of the settlers. The libraries thus formed were conducted on the circulating plan, and, from some letters of thanks to Mrs. Mackay, which I have just been perusing, it is plain that the gifts were justly appreciated and profitably improved. In the view of obtaining the services of a few pious Gaelic missionaries, Mrs. Mackay felt a desire to concentrate her efforts and those of her friends on some one point; and, as many of the northern emigrants had settled in Cape Breton, that island was fixed on as a suitable field. So early as 1827 the Glasgow Society had received very affecting details of the spiritual wants of the Island, and different individuals were fixed on as pioneers in the enterprise. In all such cases it is well known that the disappointments in the experience of all Missionary Societies, in the outset, are numerous, and it was matter of great satisfaction when Mrs. Mackay resolved to take "her little island," as she called it, under her care. This "little island," nevertheless, is 3000 miles square. Its number of settlers had been increasing year after year, and no evangelical association had as yet given it any place in their benevolent regards. The mission of the Rev. Alexander Farquharson, in 1833, was on this account an important event in the religious history of the Island. That excellent man had to encounter a host of difficulties, particularly at the outset of his labors, but by divine grace he was enabled to conquer them all, and after twenty-five years active and laborious missionary toil, he was gathered to his fathers in peace. He was a single-hearted devoted minister of the cross, and the blessings of his attached flock will rest on his widow and family.

Mrs. Mackay was spared to see a very considerable number of the leading Gaelic settlements in the Island taken up by missionaries whom she was mainly instrumental in sending out; and their labors were aided and encouraged by catechists, on the itinerating plan, as in Scotland, by teachers, and by supplying pious books gratuitously to them. The number of leading stations now is about a dozen, and if these are multiplied by four, the result may give us an idea of the number of spheres of labor. The extent of each charge is great, as the settlers are scattered; and the demand for additional churches and ministers is at present very clamant. Three of the more remote charges I had it not in my power to visit, but the two Sabbaths I spent in the island, and the meetings held successively at Sydney, Myra, Sydney Mines, Bras'Or, Boulardrie, Bedeque, Cape St. Ann, Wyecoma, and Plaster Cove,