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VOL. XXIII.

NO. IV

-THE---

## MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

\_\_\_IN\_\_\_

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK

-AND--

ADJOINING PROVINCES.

27/10/2

Bonnier J

APRIL,



1877.

PICTOU, N. S.,
PRINTED AT THE "COLONIAL STANDARD" OFFICE,

1877.

#### VARIETIES.

Agents who do not receive the number of Records stipulated for, will please communicate with the editor at once.

An application has been received by the Presbytery of Edinburgh for admission into the Established Church, from the Rev. W. Mackellar, formerly of the Pencaitland Free Church.

Don't talk much, neither long at a time. Few can converse profitably above an hour. Keep at the utmost di-tance from pious chit-chat, from religious gossiping .- Wesley.

Sir William Thomson has been awarded by the Italian Scientific Association the prize for the Italian or foreigner who by his writing or discoveries has conributed most during the past year to the advancement of science.

I am possessed with a most chivalrous and arm determination to live and die fighting for this bulwark of Protestantism, this ark of righteousness, this conservator of social order and religious liberty, the dear old Kirk .- Norman Mc-Leod.

There is dew in one flower and not in another, because one opens its cup and takes it, while the other closes itself and the drops run off. So God rains goodness and mercy as wide as the dew. and if we lack them it is because we will not open our hearts to receive Him.

A motion has been made in the Edinburgh Free Presbytery for the transmission to the Assembly of an overture which sets forth that the Hymn book is inadequate and defective, and that steps should be taken to get it enlarged or improved, or that permission should be granted to congregations to use the Hymn-book of some other Church.

Roman Catholic papers are praising the British Government for granting a fine site at Gibraltar on which to build a Roman Catholic Church. They are also praising the Spanish Government for compelling British Protestants to close their churches in Spain. Oh no, the church of Rome is not intolerant as Isn't she? she used to be!

"Captain, we are entirely out of ammuni ion," said an o derly sergeant to his commander, on a field day. "What! entirely out of ammunition?" exclaimed the captain. "Yes, entirely out," was the reply. "Then cease firing," peremptorily said the captain. Will not some of our speakers take the hint, and stop firing when their ammunition is **ex**pended

At the Edinburgh Presbytery on the 28th ult, Dr. Scott pressed the claims of the Endowment Scheme upon every congregation within its bounds. plained that an appeal is to be made to the Church for funds to endow 100 additional parishes within the next five years, as a fitting tribute to the memory of Dr. Smith, and as a thank-offering te the "Great Head of the Church" for he large measure of increase already bestowed.

On St. Andrew's day, the happy event of a Union between the Independents and the congregations, in connection with the Church of Scotland in Mauritius took place, the former signing the standards and Formula of the Church of Scotland, without any expressed desire, for the insertion of the thin end of the wedge into any of the chapters of the confession of Faith under the guise of "conscience clauses."

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

John Grant, Irish Mountain,	\$1.75
Samuel Fraser, Bridgville,	1.50
W. B., E. R., per Rev. P. Galbraith,	18.00

# THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

IN

### NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XXIII.

APRIL, 1877.

NO. IV.

If forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning .- Psalm 137, 4-5.

HUMAN GUILT UNVEILED.

"WHAT HAST THOU DONE."

A Sermon by Rev. W. Hay Aitken.

"For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? See thy way in the Valley: know what thou hast done."—JEREMIAH ii. 22, 23

It is scarcely credible that the children of Israel should have dared to use such language as that which is att ibuted to them in our text. When we read their history and the record of all their backstidings and sins, we can hardly understand how those who had been guilty of such idolarry should have dared to say, "We are not polluted, we have not gone after Baalim!" Ye this was what they said; and the prophet explains it by the fact that they were si far gone in self-deception that they could excuse or deny their guilt in the very presence of God Himself.

We should have wondered still more at the depth of solf-deception displayed by them, if we were not so constantly reminded in our own experience of the very same thing, and if we did not behold exhibitions not less startling than those we find here. You will scarcely meet a man, outwardly belonging to the Church of Christ, but who will be ready to make confession of having sinued, and of having come short of the glory of God. But I venture to say that in the majority of instances where this admission is made, it amounts practically to nothing. It is made as a matter of form and as a piece of orthodoxy; and they who make it are anacquainted with the evil within their own hearts.

Now, if the work of grace in this neighbourhood is to be a deep and a Divine work, we must begin it by seeing ourselves as God sees us. And I wish you not to think me hard and devoid of feeling if I preach to you very pointedly on human guilt. I want, by God's help, to impress you with your true state before God, and of your need of the grace of Christ. I say it boldly, that in many cases while confession is made with the lip, "we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep," the heart is not convinced of the solemn truth, and is saying, like Israel of old, "I am not pollnted."

I remember on one occasion conducting a meeting in Liverpool, and at the close of the service I had some conversation with a miserable woman whose career had been one of sin, and whose appearance clearly said so. She seemed as hardened as ever she could be. I said to her, "Do you feel yourself a sinner?" Her reply immediately was, "I don't know that I am! I suppose I am like other people. I don't feel spiritually very bad." These were her replies to various queries "But do you not feel that you are a sinner?" "I do not see how I am." She spoke the truth. She had not learned to conceal it by any sophistry. I found that, outwardly at least, there was hardly a sin that this woman had not committed; yet she could say, "I seppose I am like other people—I do not feel myself a sinner."

A friend of mine was visiting a dying carter, and my friend said to him, "Do you feel yourself a sinner?" The man's reply was, "I do not know that I am so bad!" "But do you not feel that you are a sinner?" "I do not know that I am." "Now, we must get that point settled. Let me ask you a few questions. Have you ever taken a drop too much?" "Well, fellows like me are like enough to do that now and then, out as they are in all whethers and all kinds of company." "Well, I am not asking you for excuses. My question is, Have you ever sworn? Have you ever cursed, and taken God's name in vain?" "Well, we carters

#### The Mouthly Broord of the Church of Sootland.

are a rough lot, and a man's temper sometimes gets the better of him ""Stop, stop! I am not as ing you about the roughness of your lot; I am asking you, have you ever sworn? You admit that you have. Did you ever break the Lord's day?" "We'l, I think if a man has his lorses to look after—""Stop! Here are three things—drunkenness, profane swearing, and Sachath-breaking. Now the sooner you take your place as a sinner the better. It is of no use your saying the tyou are not one."

Now I say the same to those I am now addressing. You may say that those of whom I have told you were poor, ignorant people. We l, how is it with you? Can any one of you be convicted by your own neighbours of these sins, yet say at the same time, I am not guilty? Oh, let us take our true place, let us see ourseives as God sees us! This self-decepis no confined to the ignorant. I would it was st. I have found the same spirit of self righ cousness existing among men and women who regularly go to church, and who have been familiar with Bible truth. Their denial of sin does not always come up in this rough way. They will tell you, "In saying that I am a sianer I mean no more than that I do not profess to be a saint." If there is no deeper sense of shame than this, let me tell you any one who speaks like this is

#### PLATING TRICKS WITH GOD'S TRUTH.

There is a blind before his eyes, so that he does not see. The very confession of sin which some people make, is being perverted by the enemy of souls, who is falling them into a stupor. If a man were honestly to say, "I do not believe myself a sinner," there would be some ex reise of thought required. He would have to think about it, and this thinking would bring him to recall certain circumstances of his life. He would remember sin after sin. There would be some hope of such a man. But where we find a man saying lightly, "I am a sinner like everybody else, 'I do not know any one who is more under the thraidem of sin. Only think of it! Going on grieving the Holy Spirit, and sinning, and yet you say, like Israel, "I am not po lated!" But the everlasting God comes down in His Word with the crushing weight of a hammer, which breaks the rock in pieces. He asks, "How can you say, I am not pollated! See thy way in the valley: know what thou hast done." What does He mean by that? He was asking the lera 1ites, when on the top of the mount, to look back upon the valley of chosaphat,

#### THE VALLEY MARKED BOTHER SINS.

"Look at thy way in the alley; look at that monument, and the smoulaering fices of Topbet: k ow what thou hast done." And when the Spirit of God speaks in His Wor, He does

just the same. God does not convict us of laving been born of sinful parents. We have to do, not with enginal guit but with our own iniquity is what we should think of here. God takes us up to a point rom which we can look down on this, and He says, Open your eyes and look back. Let it not be merely the voice of the preacher which bids you do this. Let the Divine voice sound in your ears. Let your path through life rise up before you. Some of you may have torgotten it, but God has not. God keeps a book of remembrance, and in that, your path is written. Look back on the past and ask yourselves, as in the presence of Him before whose bar you will stand, "What have I done?"

1. What hast then done in regard to the a cat object for which thou wast called into being ? It is an inquiry which demands very serious reflection. Have you risen to the true object of your being? What hast thou done? "I have done no harm," some will reply. What do you mean? Is doing no harm the object of God in calling you into existence ? Is that your idea? If that was all, might not God have made you an inanimate stone, which can do no harm? Is your aim nothing higher than this? What nonsense men tals ! As if doing no harm were the great end of existence. Do you imagine that you can go to heaven by doing no harm ! Besides, there is not a man here of whom that is true. You may not have been a thief, or a forger, or a drunkard; but if you will look at your way in the valley, if you will read your life aright, you will see that it has uniformly heen

#### IN OPPOSITION TO THE DIVINE WILL.

Whatever influence you have exerted, has been contrary to the Divino wil'. Your life may have been comparatively innocent; but "except you repent" you will find when you stand before the bar of God that you are not alone in your iniquity; others have been influenced by you. Oh, what have you done in relation to the object for which you were called into being? When a true answer is given to this question, you will find your whole life crying out against you.

2. Agrin, what have you done in respect to lifes opportunities? You have all had them. Some one replied when asked the question, "I have been settling up tombstones for lost opportunities." Is that your answer? When you were a boy, you had your opportunities, but you ost them. As a girl you might have begun your life for heaven; but you re inquished your purpose. You had your opportunity, but you lost it. As you grew in years, you had your opportunity, for there came to you the blessed tidings of great joy. On many who have left you for ever, you might have excited

a good influence. How many you might have awakened to a senso of iffe's solemnity! I venture to say that the humblest here might have already laid up treasures in heaven, treasures in that glorious kingdom, so that he might look forward to the time when the Master's voice shall be heard saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

You have had these opportunities. What hast thou done? Remember if there has been one whom you might have influenced, but whom you have not influenced, you will have to give an account. What hast thou done? This will be the question which the Judge will ask one day. Have you improved your opportunities? Have you been faithful to your trust? Be assured, I am your friend in thus pressing home his subject to your hearts. In the light of my opportunities, in the 1i ht of my privileges, O God, what have I done?

3. Again, what have you done in relation to your social responsibilities? What have you done as an employer of labour? Have you made y ur influence felt as you might have done? What have you done among your servants in the workshop and manufactory? Have you made it felt among those who dai y minister to your wants? Are your servants the better for it. How many of your servants have you neiped to become Christ's acreants? Or a e you compelled to say, I could not lead them to Christ, because I have not come to Him myself? You have been put in a position of responsibility, and the voices of those whom you have not influenced for Christ cry out, "What hast thou done?"

Or shall we come a little closer? Look at your own home. God has given you a home. He has not brought you up in the solitude of the wilderness. He has placed you amongst those whose tives are very dear to you. Mother! He has given you children, and you could not have been entrusted with a more sole : n responsibility. What have you done? You love your daughter; you have been a good mother. But what have you trained her for ? We should have spoken of you as a bad mother if you had struck your children. But if you have trained them for ill, you have done worse than if you had struck them. It they have seen you living for the world, and for nothing else; if they have seen you living for fashion, mother, what hast thou done?

This, also, is the question put to you fathers. Father! what hast thou done? The boys think that what their father does must be right; and wha have they seen? God has given you a solemn charge to keep. How is it, if they see that you take no interest in the worship of God? How is it, if they see that your religion is an empty form? The children can soon see through it, if it be so. If your religion is no

thing more than a mere conventional form, they will take know edge of it. Do you not see that you are training these bors of yours to know nothing of true religion? By and-by these very lads of yours will be brought into contact with true religion; and what then will be their father's advice? He will say, "Ito not be carried away with excitement." Now, I want to tell you honestly, in that moment such a father's example will aid them in resisting the influence of the Holy Ghost! Thin, of this.

When you stand before the bar of God and the books are opened; when you stand face to face with Deity, what if from the mighty throng before that bar there shall come forth to you no stranger, but a member of your own family to bear witness against you? Who is it? The child whom you have taught! The son whom you made the object of your ambition! The daughte whom you sold to your vanity! What if in that clemn bour they should lift up heir hands, saying in horror, "Father, what hast thou done " Fither, I have lost the erown of life. Father, the gates of Paradise are closed for ever against me! Father, my doom is sealed for all eternity; but if there is one person more than another to whom I owe this, it is to thee! What hast thou done?' Will you sit down, and say, "I am not so very bad?" Oh, hearken to God's voice speaking to you, "See thy way in the valley: know what thou hast done.

4. Still further, What hast thou done in the light of the relations to the God, the Father who loves you? He is your Father What have you done for Him? "If I am a Father, where is my honour?" asks the Lord. If we are His sons, He has the right to look to us to treat Him as our own Fathers? But "look back in the valley," and see your past life. How have you treated the best of Fathers? What had He the right to expect? Devotion, obedience, willingness to do His will. He had the right to expect this. But where is the man who has not wandered into the far country? Some have come home, but others have not come. You have said to your Father, as the produgal said, "Father, give me my portion of goods; I want my money to do as I choose; I want my time to do what I like with it; pleasure is to be my law of life; I am now going to

HAVE MY OWN WAY.'
And he has done it. He can do it, for we have been placed in a position m which we are free to choose. Our sin has consisted in this, that we have turned our backs on our Father. We have taken with us our portion of goods, and have left Him. O God, how wondrous has been Thy forbearance that Thou hast allowed poor wretched sinners to do this, and cidst not strike them down to the deep damnation of hell.

5. Again, How have you treated that Holy Spirit that has been striving with you? is a gentle voice that has been speaking in your heart, and has been long speaking there. Some of you can remember the time when you knelt at your mother's knee, and poured forth your heart in childlike pra, cr. Your heart was soft and sus, eptible in those days. You wanted to belong to Jesus. You said you would give your heart to Jesus. Well, look down now on the long valley of your life. The history of your bygone years—what is it?" "Yo uncircumcised in licart, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost, even as your fathers did." That is God's accusation against you. "I called, and none answered. I held out my hands, and none said, Here am I. They would have none of my counsel; they have str.ven against my my Spirit." Oh, my friends, let us hang down our heads for shame, if this is indeed the Divine accusation against us. Where is the man or woman who has not again and again sinned against the grace and influence of the Holy Spirit?

6. Or, once more: How have you treated that One who was content to take our place and to bear our sins—who for our sakes was smitten of God and afflicted? On Calvary the darkness of Eternal eath was around Him, and in His awful loneliness He uttered the cry, which went sounding throughout God's universe, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" He who loves you uttered that cry. The Saviour who died on Ca vary, He looks you in the face as He says, "Can I do more? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow." What do you see? His precious bood being poured forth, and you hear the cry of the Jews, "His blood be upon us!" True, indeed, has been the fuifilment of that improcation. His blood has been upon that nation until now. But have we not been guilty of saying something like this? Remember that

#### AT THIS MOMENT CHRIST'S BLOOD IS ON US, EITHER IN JUDGMENT OR IN MERCY.

It is on us to cleanse us from guilt, or it is crying out against base ingratitude. What hat thou done? Hast thou said, "I do not want to have anything to do with Thee. Keep Thy salvation to Thyself! I am so very respectable I do not want Thy blood to be upon me. Keep Thy gifts, and let me order myown way. I do not want that Jacob's ladder of yours to reach heaven with. Keep it! I can manufacture a religion of my own!" A.d all the while behold He stands at the deor and knocks. Oh! that I could convince you of the love of Jesus! That I could bring you to feel the necessity of having that blood sprinkled upon your heart! "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Go and stand by that cross, and hear the voice of His

agony. "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow." As you stand there, are you not tasked, What hast thon done? Hast thou not trampled on His blood as an unholy thing? Hast thou not grieved thy best friend? What hast thou done? Oh, see to it?

Only the other day I was talking to a young lady who could not feel any burden of sin. Every time I spore of it she said she had no feeling respecting it. she did not feel it to be a burden. I said to her, "If you were in dis tressed circumstances, and I went away to a distant land to obtain a maintenance for you, and brought you back 3,000/. and laid it at your feet, and told you, I have undertaken five years of toil to get it; but now you will be able to go on your way with a happy heart. Suppose you were to take the cheque I placed in your hands and tear it up: She said, "Perhaps I should do i, for I am a proud woman." "Well, if you did so, you would only have your-self to thank for starvation." It would serve me right,' he replied. "Well, that is exactly how you have served the Lord Jesus," I said. "He has not laboured three or four years simply, but has given His life; He died for you. He stands before the door of your heart and pleads with you. He says, 'See what I have placed within your reach, here it is. All you have to do is to stretch ont your hand and take it.' But you have treated Him with carelessness and indifference. Now what do you think?" She answered, "It is so." "Well, will you confess that you have sinned against the love of Jesus?" Next day I met her and said, "May I speak of sin as being a burden to you?" "Oh, yes," she replied, "you may use the word now." The plugue of her own heart had come to light.

I do not know anything that will show me my own sinfulness so much as the love of Christ. Show me the man who is ungrateful to his friend, and I will show you one for whom we have contempt. Every unconverted man is a contemptible man, because he is sinning, gainst his best Friend. There is nothing manly in sin, there is nothing womanly in sin. It is a despicable thing to sin, and so it merits deep damuation. What hast thou done: A very despicable thing when thou hast sinned. Shall we ask ourselves the question 1 Thank God we are not now asking it in the day of judgment! Let us judge ourselves. Let us open the book of our past life, and take a good look at it. You will soon drop it, and cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

What are you going to do? Here again learn from what is written: "For though thou wash thee with nitro, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord." There will be plenty to tell you that

you are not so very bad. They will say, "Some may be bad enough to need the tear of peniten e; but an innoce t pure girl does not want it." Ah I it is washing with nitre. Others will have the soap of morality, and try to lead'a better life. Now, I tell you in the name of God, that if there is a grain of truth in God's book, all such attempts are deceptions of the devil designed to ruin you. Let God be true, and every man a liar. There is no such method of washing away your sins. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?" But if you cannot do away with your sins, there is a supernatural power that can. There is One who can take that past life of yours that cries out against you, and throw it into the depths of the sea. Will you let Him do it?

Come and take Christ's religion. What is it: It begins and ends with the blessed truth: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." Brethren, if tears cannot was away guilt, if our best efforts cannot make atonement for it, thank God there stands One so n ear you that you can clasp His hand, and He can

put away sin.

"There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains."
— Christian Herald.

#### PROF. FLINT ON THEISM.

On the 25th ult., Professor Flint delivered in St. George's Church, Edinburgh, the third of a series of lectures on "Theism." They thought, he said, to have reasons for belief in the existence of God. They could have no right to believe it simply because they wished or willed to believe it. The grounds or reasons which they had for their belief must be to them proofs of God's existence. Those who affirm that God exnd, and yet denied that His existence

b proved, must maintain a position obviously erroneous or use the word proof in a sense fitted only to perplex. The proofs of God's existence must be in His own manifestations—in the ways in which He made Himself known, and in the phenomena on which His powers and character were imprinted, and according to this view the evidences were countless. They were

found in all the forces, laws, arrangements of nature, in every material object, every organism, every intelligence the entire in powe., and and of nature. wealth human could only be properly thought of in the higher theistic sense as the cause of which the universe was the effect; but to think of God as the cause, and to apprehend the universe as effect, they must have direct immediate experience of causation, and such experience they had only in the will. When the soul willed it knew itself as an agent-a cau-e. But the principle of casuality by itself was quite insufficient to light up the mind to an apprehension of The evidence of intelligence Deity. must be combined with the evidence of power before they could be warranted to infer more from the facts of the universe than the existence of an ultimate force; and no mere force, however great and wonderful, was worthy to be called God. God was not only the ultimate cause, but the supreme intelligence. But a step further muts be It was only in the recognition of an absolute being of infinite power, who worked with perfect wisdom towards the accomplishment of perfectly holy ends, that they reoched a true knowledge of God, or, what was much the same, a know edge of the true God. The professor went on to elaborate the thought that knowledge of God was obtained simply and naturally, as knowledge of our fellow-men was obtained; that our entire spiritual being was constituted for the apprehension of God, in Thereafter and through His works. he argued that the opinion that man had immediate intuition of God was untenable, and that the opinion that man had an immediate feeling of God was absurd.

Contributors will please accept thanks and are requested to continue their favors.

#### RELIGIOUS THOUGHT IN SCOT-LAND.

Scotland has always been regarded as a stronghold of evangelical faith. the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian Church there is a very full embodiment and expression of the fundamental principles of Holy Scripture. consistent adherence to these standards has tended in an eminent degree to preserve the Church and the country from the inroads of superstition and unbelief: and not only have Scottish divines been among the foremost champions of orthodox truth, but for at least two hundred vears the Scottish Church has proved a veritable bulwark of Protestantism, in the fullest acceptation of the term.

There are, however, very striking indications of a change in the direction of a latitudinarian system or spirit, by which a divergence from "the old paths" will become inevitable, and through which, it is feared by some, that the power of the Church will be injured. As symptomatic of this it is enough to mention the controv rsy engendered by the article of Professor Smith on the "Bible" in the Encyclopædia Britannica and the speech of the Rev. D. Macrae in the Greenock U. P. Presbytery on a revision of the standards, Both lave taken the country very much by surprise and both have given rise to an amount of disputation which clearly demonstrates a greater contrariety of opinion on doctrinal subjects than has been previously known within the bosom of the Church.

A remarkably striking article on this subject appears in the Marcl. number of the Contemporary Review from the pen of Principal Tulloch. It is characterized like all the productions of the worthy principal, with closeness of reason and clearness of expression, combined with judical calmness and philosophical acumen. As a fair exposition of the progress and aspects of religious thought in Scotland at the present time, the article is of great value, and should be

very widely and carefully read. In this notice it is impossible to do more than indicate the general purport and bearing of the article; and this even will be of much interest to those who watch the religious condition of their native land, and yet who may not have the opportunity of examining in detail such a striking production as this.

In the opening paragraphs of his essay Principal Tulloch says that there are many unmistakable signs that the "old and hard crust which so long enclosed the religious thought and life of Scotland" is beginning to break up. This catastrophe, he says, was distinctly forseen by such men as Dr. Robert Lee and Dr. James Robertson, who did so much as to promote the cause of "liberal Christian thought." Since the Secession of 1843, he considers that the main influences which have educated the youthful Scottish mind have been largely outside the universities and the Church, and have been "partly literary and partly speculative." Among the chiefs of those causes which have operated "beneath the surface towards a determ nate change in the theological opinion of Scotland," he mentions the teachings of Coleridge and the Hares, of the school of Maurice and Kingsley, and of Carlyle and Erskine, with the study of German theology and metaphysics. In building up "its ecclesiastical sytem," he considers that the Free Church committed itself to a sytem of "ultra-orthodoxy" a ider the leadership of Cunningham and Candlish, to whose eminent ability he pays a just tribute of admiration. Even Dr. Candlish, however, lived to "neologise" in his own behalf in the ablest and best of his theo'ogical writings-"Lectures on the Fatherhood of God"-in reply to which a champion of orthodoxy appeared in the ranks of the Established Church.

In the "second decade after the Disruption," Principal Tulloch proceeds to show that a "new spirit of Christian thoughtfulness made rapid progress.' Some of the stages of this movement have been portrayed in the memoirs of Dr. Norman Macleod, who is pronounced to be in "all senses a large man, with intellectual gifts of the most rich, varied, and ebullient character, distinguished alike as an orator in the pulpit and on the platform, and no less distinguished by his enthusiastic, yet ever intelligent, labors as a pastor in the largest parish in Scotland." Like Dr. Chalmers before him, Macleod was more than an ecclesiastic, or preacher, or writer. He looked over the ecclesiastical fence which office or accident had drawn around him into the wide and open world; and more than either Robertson or Lee he came definitely under the new influence of thought which spread into Scotland from England and Germany. As illustrations of this liberalizing tendency of Macleod's mind, he refers to the influence upon him of his relative, Mr. John Macleod Campbell, to the character of Good Words, and to the controversy provoked on the authority of the Jewish Sabbath; and the whole movement in which Macleod played so prominent a part, he thinks the Liberal party in the Church made a decided gain. This, he says, is proved by the circumstance that the Liberal movement has since made steady progress, and has within the last few years invaded the very citadel of the Tree Church itself.

From this point Principal Tulloch proceeds to analyse the recent development of "liberal theology in Scotland." In doing this he details the circumstances under which Professor Smith wrote his article for the Encyclopædia Britannica; and after a review of the character of that article, he considers that the views enunciated are in advance of any that have hitherto been maintained in any of the British Churches on the subject of Scripture, and that it is nothing less than a wrel that such views should have been received so quietly and with

so much favor. On the other hand, the criticism directed against the Confessior. of Faith by Mr. Macrae and others, he considers louder and more distinct than any which has previously taken place. In compariso with this, indeed, the criticism of 1865 was measured and timid; and this time the ouslaught is made, not by a minister of the Established, but of the United Presbyterian, Church.

In surveying the whole, Principal Tulloch says and none can tell what may come of the present movement of thought in Scotland. The results are, in the meantime, incalculable. But one thing may be safely said, that none of the Churches, as they now exist, will make much capital out of the movement. English writers that survey it from a distance are apt to estimate the chances now of an Established Churco, and now of the Free Church, as they see the liberal flag blowing from the ramparts of the one or the theological halls of the This is all imagination. The current of free thought is running deep and sure in all the Churches, even within softened and exclusive precincts where it makes no noise at all. It will make its way towards the light by-andby, and from all quarters of the ecclesiast cal horizon; and the Church which will have most chance may posssibly not be any of the present organizations, but a Church more excellent-because at once more liberal and Catholicthan any of those now existing.

There is as much of force as there is of beauty in these remark. However much religious controversy may be regretted in some of its phases, it is undoubtedly symptomatic of enquiry and progress, and will eventually be overruled by the Divine Head of the Church for the firmer implantation and surer propagation of the truth itself. If the present unsettled aspect of theological dogmas in Scotland should have this re

sult, a beneficent end will be attained; and towards such a culumination the article of Principal Tulloch will contribute in a very appreciable degree.—
S. A. J.

#### A PROBLEM.

A young man, distinguished for his mathematical attainments, was fond of challenging his fellow students to a trial of skill it solving difficult problems. One day a class mate came into his study; and, laying a folded paper before him said: "There is a problem I wish you would help me solve," and immediately left the room.

The paper was eagerly unfolded, and there instead of a question in mathematics, were traced the lines. "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and tose his one soul? Or what shall a man give, in exchange for his soul?"

With a gesture of impatience he tore the paper to atoms, and turned again to his books. But in vain he tried to shake off the impressions of the soleme words he had read. The Holy Spirit pressed home his convictions of guilt and danger, so that he could find no peace till he found it in believing in Jesus. He subsequently became a minister of the Gospel he had once despised, and his first surmon was from the words, so eminently blessed to his own soul: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul."

#### WHAT THE CHURCH NEEDS!

How does God manifest his glory? Is it through doctrines and formulas and creeds?—through confessions of faith and covenants of man's make?—words, mere words? No. The man who grows in virtue, in purity of motives, in unselfishness of purpose, in honesty with his fellows; the woman who grows in patience, in moral whitness, in a Marylike love for the Master—these are the mediums through which God reveals his

nature and the working of his truth. If every creed ane theological dogma were blown to the winds, and lost to the memory of men, while men and women lived. God would not lack a medium of expression, or the world testimony to the The Christ like truth as it is Jesus. spirits, even more than the Christ spoken letter, is what we and all the world We want fruitfulness on our barren figtrees, and men that will go in and eat with, as well as pray for, the publicans. We want piety that shall not be ashamed to take vice by the hand, and lead it up its own levil. We want honesty inspired by something higher than fear of jail. We want virtue, strong, tender, and self-prized enough to send hyperitical crulty away when it draws its hateful circle around the weak and the wicked, and to stand up and say through the lenghth and breadth of the land, "There is hope for the thief and the wanton in Jesus." We have had enough of words: they have contributed more to the fighting than they have to the piety of the world. We want now labours of love virtue, strong enough to stand on its own, feet, and filled with self-doing in affection for God and man.

W. H. H. M.

#### ENDOWMENTS.

Notwithstanding all that her enemies in their ignorance or malice may say to the contrary, there is life, yea, abundant life, in the national Church of Scotland. None of those who clamour and labour, zealously to disendow and dise tablish her are doing more, if as much, to pr vide gospel ordinances for the masses. There is great activity within her bounds. Small livings are being augumented, quoad Sacra Chapels erected into parishes and endowed, and she is making such changes in her constitution and govern ment, without compromise of truth on Principe, as to make her par-excellenc\* the Church of the people and nation.\*

## The Monthly Accord.

APRIL, 1877.

#### OUR OWN CHURCH.

"Will the "Kirk" retain a foothold in the Dominion?"

A would be loyal son of the Kirk who takes a gloomy view of the "situation," writes to ask us if we think the kirk in N. S., or the Dominion, will survive the shock of the loss of the majority of the late synod, and live down the frowns, persecution, and loss of property to which she has been subjected since the consummation of Union:

We reply,—Do we think the "Kirk" can much longer survive the frowns, persecutions and loss of property she has been subjected to since the consummation of Union? Certainly we do, the more she is shaken the brighter will her light become. In the meantime, much chaff must go. Survive, yes, we believe the very "gates of hell shall not prevail against her!" Why they? Is she not the acknowledged Nova Scotian branch of the national church of Scotland? Does not the Kirk in N. S., hold the same doctrine and church government, the same confession of faith and standards that the kirk of Scotland holds! and seeing that she did survive on two occasions, in her history in this province, very fierce blasts of malice, calumny, and persecution, by he help of the great head of church, the will now ride along on the crest of the wave to victory and still greater ex-The scheme of Mr. Dunn, tension successfully carried out, will place her in a position, that will make her the envy of her bigger, the younger sister, and a city of refuge to congregations to which scant justice may be dealt. Survive?

Yes we hope to see her occupy a proud position in the Dominion before those whe are now young become very old! We would be deeply sorry to see her use "carnal weapons," for the accomplishment of her object, yet we hope to see her strike her roots deeper, and spread her branches wider than ever before, not losing sight however, of the possibility of union, but waiting with patience, and looking with due deference to the mother to move in that direction first.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Aberdeen on Thursday, a cordial vote of congratulation was passed to Dr. Pirie on his appointment to the Principalship of Aberdeen University. The compliment was proposed by Rev. George Jamieson, and seconded by Rev. G. F. J. Philip. Dr. Trail, as Moderator, expressed the congratulations of the Presbytery, and hoped that some of the kirk sessions in the city would place Dr. Pirie in the Presbytery as an elder, in order that they might have the benefit of his counsel. Principal Pirie, in acknowledging the kindness of the Presbytery, said that if spared to continue to act in the Church Courts, he would work as heretofore to bring into closer relationships the various Christian denomina-He mentioned that since his aptions. pointment to the Principalship the number of congratulatory letters he had received was so great that it would be totally impossible for many years to answer them, and that from persons of the very highest character, and the highest position. He considered it no small thing for a man, after thirty years' labour in that Presbytery and the Church Courts, to receive so much kindness from a new generation, for the gentlemen around him were for the most part of a different generation from those with whom he began his labours in that court.

#### ON CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

We wish all our readers to understand that the Kirk in this County has Missionary Schemes which she supports, that she is not only evangelical but evangelistic. Indeed no Church has a right to the tite of Church of Christ unless she patronize Missions. into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, is as much the duty of a Church as to look after her home population. The former is as much the charge of her Divine Head as the latter and if she neglect the one she is as culpabe as the she may neglect the other. There were days gone by in which this was but slightly understood or at least acted upon; the Churches of Eng and and Scotland slumbered during the last century and minded nothing but their own temporalities; but they were revived and quickened by the labours of Wesley and Whitfield, Simeon and Hill, and since this century began, every Church has vied to diffuse the Gospel abroad as well as preach it at home. The Kirk in this County has never resigned her inte est in the Mission field, isolated though she be, and withou. Missionaries of her own, yet she claims a part in the Foreign Mission re, resented by Messrs. Robertson and Frazer Campbell, and last year sent a considerable sum to be expended by th m in the fields of Erromanga and This is now one of the stand-Madras. ing schemes to which all our corgregations are invited to contribute aye, and on Sabbath Schools likewise. writer has been asked to correspondwith Messrs. Robertson and Campbell and to suggest the contribution of \$200 for native Catechists. Thus we would have a living Mission of our own in which all might be expected to interest themselves and to a:d. For the argument that a congregation has not enough of its own on hand will not stand. Unless we water o.hers, our own place

will bedry; it is in helping the perishing we help ourselves. Twenty-nine years ago in one of our villages a congregation of thirty members started, and every year since has contributed, is hundreds of doll re towards Missionary objects, and now it has built its new (hurch, is paying its venerable pastor \$1000 annually, and stand foremost among its own connection in the ranks of liberality. But this congregation struck out right from first, not selfishly or for domestic purposes merely subsisting, but for the benevolent objects Christ enjoins, and devising liberal things, by liberality, stands. And similally with some of our own congregations It was in 1852 before a Presbytery was formed, that the w er's congregation. began its first Missionary contribution, collecting for the lost theep of the house of Israel, and the reflex benefit was felt in the congregation itself as well as services performed to the cause. "There is that giveth and yet increa eth, and there is that withholdeth, and yet it tendeth to poverty." ' If a Church for example, act on the principle of merely looking after number one, or if a minister will not give his people an opportunity to contribute for Mission, one consequence he has dried up the resources of benevolence in his people and paralyzed his own right arm, and another is he has neglected to aid that cause for which the world stands. If so our congregations for their own rakes ought to invest in Missions foreign and home, and Ministers ought to call forth the benevolence both to increase the Missionary spirit within, as well as aid benevolent objects abroad; for the Missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ and a Church sto fulfil, her high destiny must be evangelistic as well as evangelical.

F. S.—In reference to the above missions, it may be mentioned that Mr. Robertson has a congregation of 500 hearers on the Sabbath, and several communicants, on blood-stained Erro-

manga, where 3 Missionaries have been sacrificed. His object is to persuade the natives to relinquish their idolatry and to worship the true God and his Son Jesus Christ.

Rev'd F. Campbell, in one of the provinces of British India, is prosecuting a work such as Rev'd Charles Grant began several years ago and described in the pages of the Monthly Record, namely, arguing with the subtle Hindoos on the folly of their religion and recommending the Christian as the alone true incarnation and Divine system. But both Missionaries aim at at one and the same end, vizileading the natives to Christ; and special prayer as well as pecuniary means should go forth for success to both Missions the one in the east and the other in the west.

" What though the spring breezes B ow soft in Ceylon's Isle, Though every prospect pleases And only man is vile! In vain; with tavish kindness, The gifts of God are strewn The Heathen, in his blindness Bows down to wood and stone. Shall we whose souls are lighted With wiscom from on high, Shall we to man benighted The lamp of life deny; Salvation Oh Salvation The joyful sound proclaim, Till each rem test nation Has learnt Messiah's name."

A. W. H.

#### COLLEGES.

Colleges at the present time, seem to be the all-important subject. That they are receiving attention from several branches of Christ's Church is nothing to be wondered at, when we take into consideration that an educated minority is necessary. They have done a noble work in other countries, having made themselves felt far beyond their prescribed limits through the many intellec ual and educated men they have sent out, and why should not the same be done by them in Canada, in a Country

which is daily rising into importance, and giving proof of wealth as yet unknown. To warrant success, both in founding thes , and making them useful afterwards, numbers must be avoided. Many small colleges, as well as several weak, dwindling congregations, instead of being a help to a Church, are a burden which hinder to no small extent the whole working of the Church. Efficiency is d manded, not numbers; thorough improvement, not a silly rivalry. The Presbyterian Church, regardless apparently of improvement in efficiency, in order to have the liberty to boast of numbers, is presently making a great effort to endow a Theological College in Halifax Who can show this to be a wise step? Where is the actual necessity of draining the country of so much money which might be otherwise usefully employed in behalf of the Church, for a college which is not needed, and not only not needed, but will continue to be a drain upon the resources, and likewise send forth men little more than half educated! Were there only one in Canada we would say that the effort is justifiable, notwithstanding the burden imposed upon the Church. But with so many then the step is unwise and uncalled for. The journey to Canada to-day is neither long nor very expensive. Scotland, the great seat of education, is not the distance it was many years ago, taking into consideration the time spent in the journey, nor is the journey so expensive as to prevent our young men from studying there. The Paris Presbytery of the Canada Church, were it not that the basis of union is ignored, is on the right track for the good of the whole, in demanding the union of some of the colleges in order to a more thorough improvement and efficiency. And it union is real, we cannot see why the Church yield. It is perfectly will not ridiculous to keep up so many in Canada with two dozen of

ents or so attending each, for the sake of supporing several Professors, and yielding to certain silly associations, particularly ... these are a burden to the Church, and an injury to young men who have to study at colleges, not equal to many academies If such a state of matters is to continue, we know not where the establishment of colleges will At this rate there will soon be one in every Synod, then in every Presbytery, and lastly in each section of the country. Fine times will the Professors have, to lecture to students of painted wood; what a quiet meeting on the occasion of these delivering their discourses! What a comfort each returning night will bring, when they can throw themselves down in the lap of ease, without any thought of what the lecture is to be on the morrow! The colloges we have, (for the Paris Presbytery—one of the Presbyteries of Canadian Church, declares it to be a necossity to increase the number of Professors in each college?) not to speak of those which are likely to be established, are a perfect farce. How can any people who have been accustomed to have their ministers well educated think of contribting towards their endowment. The idea is preposterous. Yet we have been asked to support the college in Halifax. Though several of our friends have left us, some in anger because we would not do as we were told, we would not turn upon them and despise an institution established by them which we in common believed to be for the good of the country. Still we maintain, in principles which every intelligent man must receive, that the H. college is not **seeded**, and that two would do more work, and do it better. Then we would have all the Professors required, and men too of education, a healthy competition among the students, and colleges which would not only take care

themselves, but, through bursaries

connection with them, the students like-Some tell us that we must hav one in Halifax else the students who go either to Scotland or Canada will no This has been in too many instances distressingly true, but there is no necessity that such a state of matters shall continue. Put the Church on a good footing and not only will those return who go away to their education but they will bring others back with them, This going and remaining has arisen from the fact that there was nothing to induce men to return, nay but there was much to induce them to remain, owing to the charges around them, which were and are so superior to most of the congregations with us. Were it not, therefore, that the Church of Scotland is paying one of the Professors in Halifax, the Presbytery of Pictou could have no difficulty as to its present action. A good, and efficient college, a college thoroughly equipped, the Presbytery of Pictou could have no difficulty in countenancing and most heartily supporting, but to contribute to one in the midst of so many, must appear to any member, a throwing away of money which might otherwise be turned to good account

It is our painful duty to record the death of another of the foremost and most respected residenters of Hopewell, Daniel Gray, Esq., which sad event took place on Sabb th, 25th March. The deceased, who had long been of failing health, died of heart disease, at the comparatively early age of 42. has left behind him a young wife and three little children, and a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn their His sad death ha e st a deep gloom not only over Hopewell and the immediate neighborhood, but also over the greater part of the county of Pictou, throughout which he was well known and universally beloved on account of his many excellent qualities.

The funeral of the deceased took place

on Tuesday afternoon, the 27th ult. Services were held first in Hopewell Church and then at the grave, at West Branch, by the Free Masons, of which fraternity the deceased was a member. At the hour appointed, the remains of the deceased were conveyed in a hearse to Hopewell Church, accompanied by about 150 Free Masons, and many mourning relatives and friends. Notwiths anding the inclemency of the weather, church was crowded, and many were unable to gain admittance. The solemn funeral service was conducted by the Rev. P. Galbraith, of West Branch, of which church the deceased was a mem-In the beginning of his address Mr. Galbraith alluded to the deceased somewhat as follows:---

"My dear friends: it is little more than two months since we were assembled together in this church to pay our last respects to one of the foremost and most respected members of our community, Mr. Alexander McDonald, who was called away from our midst under the most heartrending and distressing circumstances. Again a deep gloom has been cast over our whole neighborhood by the removal from amongst us by death, of one who was no less respected and beloved, of one indeed, whom to know was to love, and of whom it can be truly said, he has not left an enemy behind him. Insiduous disease long taken hold upon that noble frame, but it was only within the last three weeks that his anxious friends saw good grounds for fearing any immediate danger. After being brought nigh to the gates of death, he so far rallied that last Lord's day morning most of those in attendance upon him during those anxious weeks were enabled to leave him for a short time, and to join with us in this church at Divine Service. But that ominous knocking at Church door, in the middle of our service, and the hurrying out of anxious

relatives, told us only too surely that a change for the worse had taken place, and prepared us for the sad tidings soon after, that his spirit had already fled. There he lies, after "life's short and fittul dream," ready to be borne away to his last resting place, like those who have gone before him.

You knew him well, most, if not all of you, longer, if not better than I did, for he grew up in your midst; and you know well, that for gentleness, for largeness of heart, for integrity of life, and for uprightness of dealing, he has left few equals behind him. Ill can we spare such noble and precious lives as those which have lately been taken from our midst; but God's will be done, and it is for us to bow reverently to his decrees. In this last departure from amongst us, we have all lost a beloved friend and brother. But of what have those tearful and mourning relatives been bereft? Those venerable p rents of a son who, I am told, never said nay to their will; and who as their firstborn son, was their greatest stay and comfort in their old age; that weeping young wife of a loving and tender husband, and the fond parent of her now fatherless little ones; and those sorrowing brothers and sisters of a beloved and attached elder brother"

The visible emotion to be witnessed throughout the large assemblage during the address showed what deep and heartfelt sympathy was entertained for those mourning relatives, all of whom were present. At the close of the service the brother Masons of the deceased took charge of his remains and proceeded with them to the grave in West Branch, followed by an immense procession, both on foot and in wagons. The solemn and interesting Masonte burial service was gone through at the grave, after which the large assemblage of mourners slowly dispersed.

LIST OF AGENTS OF THE "RECORD."	Alex'r McDonald, Sunny Brac.
	Samuel Fraser,
Rev. W. McMillan, Bridgville.	Geo McLeod, West River
Hugh McLean, West River Station.	Alex'r Sutherland, Ccotch Hill.
Robt. Maxwell,Lime Rock, W R.	Donald Fraser, Carriboo
Kenneth Sutherland, Watervale, W. R.	Murdoch McKenzie, Three Brooks, Carriboo
James McLeod, Saltsprings.	John Fraser,
Geo. Sutherland,Six Mile Brook.	John Ross, Scotch Hill.
James Hislop, Picton.	Alex'r McQuarrie, Hardwood Hill
Postmaster,	Wm. A. McDonald, Kempton, Col. Co.
Postmaster, Stellarton.	Alex'r McKenzie, Carriboo Island.
Postmaster, Westville.	Wm. McDonald, Elder, Gairloch.
Rev. A. J. MacKichan, Barney's River.	James McKay, Esq ,Earltown.
Geo. Guna,Truro.	Rev. P. Galbraith, Hopewell.
Bev. J. W. Fraser, Scotsburn.	Dona'd Gray, Capo John.
John McKenzie, Scotsburn.	Alex'r Fraser, Teney River.
John McLean, Roger's Hill.	Rev. W. Stewart, McLennan's Brook.
Alex'r McDonald, B. SScotsburn.	Wm. M. McPherson, McPherson's Milis,
John McKay, Elder, Millville.	Sutherland's River.
Alex'r McLellan, Millville.	Kenneth J. McKenzie, W. B. R. John.
Alex'r McDonald, Elder, W. R. Station.	Robert Douglass,Logansville.
Daniel McKenzie, Gairlech.	Wm McLeed, Tatamagouche River, Col.
John Sutherland, Mill Brook.	Murdock McKennie, Upper North River.
James McLeod, Glengary.	Capt. Augus Cameron, River Inhabitants, G.B.
John McDonald, (Morchant) Pictou.	Allan McQuarrie, Cape Mahon, C. B.
John Sutherland, Three Mile House.	Geo. Baillie, Port Hastings, C. B.
John Grant, Irish Mountain.	Joseph Hart, Esq Baddock, C. B.
Doug'd McDongall, Loch Side St Peter's, C.B	Angus McKay, Plainfield, Picton Co.
Wm. Grant, (Tanner)Springville.	Rev. R. McCann,
. McDonald, (Piper)Bridgville.	W. G. Pender, Halifax.
Alex'r McDonald, (Rev) Bridgville	Neil Mel) maid, Lake Amslie.
	Chus France, St. Pauls, E. B.
W. Mr. Howar	3/64 7 / 7 / 7 /
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# The Monthly Record for 1877

It has been arranged that The Monthly Becord of the Church of Scothad, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and adjoining provinces shall be continued most year.

Ministers will be kind enough to see that arrangements are made in all our congregations to have a subscriber in every family according to the following terms:—

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Rev. Wm. McMillan, Bridgville, E. R., Pictou.