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THE MISSIONARY RECORD

OF THE

of Church Nova Scotia.

Vol. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1851.

No. 7.

COLLECTION FOR SYNOD FUND.

Ministers, Missionaries, and Catechists are reminded that the Synod has appointed the collection for the Synod Fund to be made, as usual, on the first Sabbath of August. When circumstances may render it inconvenient or impossible to have the collection made at any place on that particular day, it ought to be made on the carliest possible day thereafter; due notice being given on the immediately preceding day on which there may be public worship at that place. The orderly conducting of the affairs of the Church requires that the Synod should be at a considerable outlay of money; and it is trusted that those who enjoy the benefit of its ministrations will consider their duty, and make a corresponding effort to meet these expenses.

THE PSALMIST'S ESTIMATE OF THE DIVINE TESTIMONIES, AND THEIR PRACTICAL EF-FECT UPON HIM.

All the works of God are wonderful-When we allow our minds to dwell upon them, wonder is the sentiment which they inspire. How wonderful the starry heavens-the lofty expanse of sky, studded with so many glittering worlds-and how overpowering the contemplation of the firmament as you stretch your imagination through almost boundless space, and think of every part of it filled with intellectual capacity, of the author. Or, worlds as britiant as those on which your perhaps, the rank of the individual who eye is fixed! No sight is so wonderful composed it encreases our admiration of as the heavens when all the stars are it. But a book of which God is the aushining It was with a sentiment akin thor, which he has written; surely this is to that with which we would gaze upon something wonderful. Does it not en-

garded the testimonies of God: "thy testimonies" says he, " are wonderful"; and the practical effect upon him was, that his soul kept them: "therefore doth my soul keep them."

The testimonies of God are wonderful if we consider their author. The word of God, or the Bible, is an inspired book. It was the finger of God that wrote it.--Every word of it is his dictation. prophets spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The writers of these testimonies were under the entire control and guidance of God's Spirit word is set down there but the Spirit of God suggested or sanctioned. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. We have thus the testimonics of God is something in the very name-testimonies, which points to their origin. Human writings are for the most part but the opinions, or speculations, of their authors, or the results of their reasonings! God's word is his testimonies-not his opinions-not his reasonings-except in so far as he condescends to reason for our benefit that he may convince our understanding as well as instruct our minds. These are not the opinions, but the testimonies, of the Lord-his authoritative deliverances-statements of what He knows-and what he alone could reveal. Now, is it not wonderful, that we have a book written by God, of which he is the author? Any book is esteemed, according to the idea we have of the genius, or the starry heavens, that the Psalmist re- hance our admiration of these heavens,

the author of these heavens? Does it ed kingdoms, desolated empires! not make us look with greater admiration on those monuments of God's power, God himself. What glorious views do when we know that it is God who setthey open up of his unity—his attributes teth fast the mountains? Does not the —his purposes—his works! The world flower appear more interesting when we has lost the knowledge of God: it had know whose hand pencilled its beauties? invented or imagined, Gods many and Any of God's productions derive a glory Lords many. The whole Gentile world from their very authorship And so is it was sunk in idolatry and polytheism with the word of God, with his testimo- The Bible proclaimed the great truth-

inspiration of his Spirit.

derful for their matter. No book contains —of the infinity of his perfections! How such wonderful matter. The Bible con- vast the scene of his empire! How protains the only authentic account of creation. found and inscrutable His counsels! It carries us back to the origin of all things. How glorious the evolution of his plans! It exhibits to us the time when nothing How unlike any previous views of God! existed; and when God's creative voice The testimonies of the Lord are wonderwas heard through the empty space, callful! How poor all the religions of the ing up the worlds to which the Word heathen world! How false and distortgave being. work. It shews man in the garden, new- avail aught to correct the prevailing erly sprung from the hand of his Creator rors in regard to the Divine Being?could walk with him in families of glori-not God. God alone could reveal himous converse. It tells us of the covenant self, and he has done so in his word—his which God made with man in the person testimonies. These speak also of Christ of our great progenitor. It relates the -unfold the scheme of redemptionconsequences of that covenant. It tells of discover that glorious plan by which our the loss of Paradise—the expulsion of its fallen race is to be saved from ruin fallen inhabitant—the bitter fruit of sin carry down that plan from its first formaloss of God's favor. It carries us down the glory and perfected happiness of the the stream of human history, to the comredeemed. The Holy Spirit's work is ing of Christ, the Saviour of the World, taught. God in three persons—but one who was promised even to our first Panature or essence—is clearly made rents in the garden. It exhibits God's known; -- and their concurrence in the remarkable dealings with the human race scheme of redemption is displayed. Their during the successive ages of the world. united operation in that mighty achiev-It gives the minute history of God's an- ment is traced in every successive age; cient people, his chosen race—the mar-vellous condescension of God in his deal-of a saved, a rescued, sinner—a child of ings with them—his wonders in their be-God—we have the three persons of the half:—it traces the goodness of God—Godhead forming man upright again fulness-his power :-- it recounts his the Patriarch who walked with Godjudgments, under which both his own we have the Prophets—we have David people, and the other nations, suffered —whose admiration of God's testimonies

to know that God created them-that in all their pride and grandeur-and the only uncreated being in the universe then sitting in sackcloth, bewailing their -who has all perfection in himself-is lost bravery, their departed glory, ruin-

But the testimonies of God speak of nies: they are wonderful for their very the unity of the Divine nature: "Hear, authorship, as being the production of O Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord." God, written by his hand, or under the It revealed Jehovah—the I am. What sublime descriptions of the spirituality of 2dly. The testimonies of God are won- his nature—of the eternity of his being It records the six days' ed their ideas of God! Did philosophy -in all his innocence, and when God No! The world even by wisdom knew -of the breach of God's covenant—the tion in eternity to its consummation in his long-suffering-his mercy-his faith- after the image of God. Thus we have for their sin :- it exhibits God's awful it is that is here recorded for our instrucjealousy—his spotless purity, his unerring tion. Going further down we have the righteousness, his undeviating truth. Si- Apostles and many New Testament nai and its laws pass before our view. Saints-illustrious examples of saving The principles on which God governs grace. How wonderful are God's testi-the nations are represented in actual emmonies! How marvellous in their mat-Nineveh, Babylon, Tyre, ter! How comprehensive! extending Egypt, fill up the canvass: they are seen from eternity to eternity—reaching from

in the eternity to come!

These testimonies contain God's precepts-God's laws How holy are these! How right! How just! How good '-How glorifying to God! How advantageous to man! The laws of God are "wonderful," if we consider how consonant they are with reason-how lovely they are in every moral estimation how delightful to every unfallen or resweeter than honey to my mouth!"

when we consider their end or object.— wonderful are God's testimonies. It was the observation of a great man contain matter suited to the exigencies, that the Bible "had God for its author, or the state, of every soul. salvation for its end, and truth without look to its revelations of God's mercy—mixture of error for its matter." Salvaits discoveries of God's faithfulness—its tion, then, is the end or object of God's manifestations of God's goodness-its entestimonies. Their great object is to ac- couraging promises—its wholesome requaint us with God, that we may be at bukes—the wisdom of its precepts, or the peace with him. It is to shew us the way blessed and glorious hopes which it unof salvation-to reveal Christ to us-to folds to the believer, we are constrained teach us our own state of guilt and mise-ry, and to discover the way of redempti-on through the blood of Christ, "in the child of God should add: "Therewhom," we are told "we have redempti- fore, my soul keepeth them"

the counsels of God in the eternity past on through his blood, the forgiveness of to the accomplishment of these counsels sin, according to the riches of the Divine grace." This is the most wonderful aspect in which God's testimonies can be considered. They testify of Christ, and so in them we have eternal life. set forth fully and clearly Christ's work. They bring out its great lines or features. They exhibit a Saviour suffering and dying—the just for the unjust, to bring us unto God. The great object of God's word is that we might be saved. Salvagenerated being-of what exquisite hap-tion is its theme But salvation consists piness they are the source, and of what not merely in deliverance from wrathvaluable, and blessed, consequences the but in spiritual recovery—the redempti-They give light: they impart on of the soul from sin-the restoration understanding: they afford quickening: of the soul to holiness. Hence a great they hold out direction and guidance in part of God's word consists not on setting every circumstance. They are the tran- forth Christ, but of such views and statescript of God's nature: they are the re- ments as are fitted to advance the soul flection of his own character. It is by to holiness—and to establish it in faith them that angels are preserved in purity and comfort. Thus we read in the 19th and bliss. They are the holiness of the Psalm: "The law of the Lord is perfect, heavenly world—the crystal of its streets converting the soul: the testimony of -the radiance of its glory-the perfecti- the Lord is sure, making wise the simple : on of its happiness. Are they not all sum-med up in the love of God—and does ing the heart." The testimonics of the not that compose the joy of the heavenly Lord are wonderfully adapted to their state? the perfection of the heavenly end. They will infallibly guide to the character? Seraphs and Saints are abway of life. They contain all that is fit-sorbed in that one feeling—the love of ted to instruct, and to comfort, and to God. Ah! if we loved God, we would build up the soul, in holiness. Every bekeep his commandments—his command- liever can testify how wonderful God's ments would not be grievous: they word is-can say: "Thy testimonies are would be the joy and rejoicing of our wonderful." How do they reprove sin hearts-the happiness of our moral be- -how do they confirm faith-how do ing-the perfection of our moral nature. they animate the drooping and despond-We would love God's law: it would be ing heart-revive the faint and weary our meditation all the day: we would see soul, and impart peace and comfort to the in it a beauty and a wisdom whose profound depths we could never fathom— I get understanding. Thy word is a whose heights we could never scale— lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my whose loveliness we could never enough path. My soul fainteth for thy salvation, appreciate. Our sentiment would be: but I hope in thy word. This is my "Thy testimonies are wonderful: How comfort in my affliction: for thy word sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea hath quickened me. Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me; yet thy The testimonies of God are wonderful commandments are my delight." Whether we

David kept the testimonies of the Lord, because they were His testimonies To what they were in themselves. keep God's testimonies is to obey them, to live and act according to them. What- worthy of our faith and obedience ever God reveals must be authoritative Shall we slight such communications —and must be believed and obeyed.— from the Most High God? Shall we We cannot challenge any of God's state-treat them as a fable? Shall the word to come with an authority and awe upon an idle tale? Do not the revelations our spirits. They are God speaking to which it makes concern our everlasting us, and therefore they are wonderful, and peace? Is not our eternal salvation we ought to receive them with implicit bound up in them? Is not God speakfaith, and yield to them implicit obedi- ing to us there in subjects of infinite listen, did God speak to us in a voice from what God is saying to us at our peril?heaven! souls! what wonder would fill our minds! what God the Lord will speak: for he But God is no less surely speaking to us will speak peace unto his people, and to in his word. "God, who in sundry his saints." So did the Psalmist say. in his word. times, and in divers manners, spake in He laid up the communications of God time past unto the fathers, by the pro- in his soul, as a most precious deposit. phets, hath in these last days spoken un- God's word was very precious to him, to us by his Son." God's voice is here. more precious than thousands of gold and Hence we are to hear the word of the silver. He says: "thy word have I hid Lord. We are to incline our ear unto in my heart." He prized its revelations his testimonies. What impiety is it, not more than all riches. They gave quickto hear what God is saving to us-to turn a deaf ear to his precepts-not to keep the words of his mouth! Is it not to insult God?—is it not to make him a liar? -is it not just to say: " we do not believe what God is testifying to us"? is it deserving: but they revealed a Saviour not to set at nought his authority-to exactly suited to him in this state-able despise his threatenings—to have none to save him from hell—and able to save of his reproof—to slight his precious pro- him from his sins mises—and all his discoveries of grace ceive God's testimonies, then,—would and mercy? Ah! God will assuredly his soul not keep them? Were they not not allow them to pass unpunished who wonderful-did they not contain a gloridisregard his testimonies, who despise ous revelation of mercy-of salvation his grace, and trample upon his authoritv. He will punish them who disobey his word with everlasting destruction from his presence and from the glory of his feet upon a rock—and establish his his power. The wicked may think that goings, and put a new song into his these are but the ravings of the fanatic, mouth even praise to his God? is no danger. in their own ways-and laugh at judgillusion. It is no deception practised up- to thy judgments at all times." on the weak and the credulous. It is the "wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."-The Psalmist would keep God's testimonies because they were his: "thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them

But he would keep them because of

Such glorious revelations are surely The testimonies of God ought of God have no more effect upon us than With what reverence would we moment? And can we disregard What awe would possess our Should we not rather say: "I will hear ening and delight unto him. Through them he got understanding. They made him wiser than his teachers. They testified to him of a Saviour: they made him sec himself as guilty and vile, and hell-Would he not rethrough the incarnation and death of God will avenge his insulted majes- God's own son? Were they not thus God's means to deliver him from the fearful pit and from the miry clay-and set intended, and fitted, to scare only the soul would keep them. He had felt all weak and the timid: and they may flat- their quickening, and sanctifying, and ter themselves into the behef, that there comforting power. They gave him life: They may therefore take they gave him joy: they gave him hope. their own evil course-fortify themselves He longed for God's word, to have its power felt more and more. "My soul ment and eternal torments But it is no breaketh for the longing that it hath uncould say: "O how I love thy law! it as true as God's word declares it, that is my meditation all the day." "Unless thy law had been my delight, I should have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me." David loved the statutes, the commandments, of the Lord. He delighted in God's law. He

to be obliged to do the will of God. saw how holy and just and good God's derful-how conducive to the happiness of all who kept them. They were wonderful in themselves-their principlestheir requirements: they were wonderful in their effects. He kept them diligently: he kept them with care: he kept them because they were God's statutes: he kept them because they gave light and peace and joy to his soul, while they held out to him the prospect of eternal

happiness and glory. Shall not this be our resolution? It will be the resolution of all to whom God's testimonies are seen to be wonderful; to whom God's word has come in its quickening and saving power-who have seen its preciousness-its beauty-its inestimable value. Such will be able to say: "Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore, doth my soul keep them": "I esteem thy testimonies concerning all things to be right." This is a test by which we may try our character. Are we resolvwants as helpless, guilty, wretched, per-little discerned to keep God's law, to resist evil, to obey er resorted to weakness, our guilt--and to every situa- is thus speaking to us from heaven many tion in which we can be placed, to every thus turn a deaf car to the voice. And want of our soul, every necessity of our what wonder if God's testimonies are thus state on this side of time? Have we felt not kept! if his revelations—those decthe blessed power of God's word-to en- trines which are necessary to salvation lighten, to sanctify, to comfort? Has are unknown, or but ill understood, or that word come home to us in demonstra- disbelieved—if his laws are trampled uption of the Spirit, so that the testimonies on-his precepts disobeved-and wickof God appear wonderful—and under edness is unhesitatingly practised their full application to our condition will be found to be in proportion to the and our wants-are we constrained to disuse of God's testimonies, or the disresay: "thy testimonies are wonderful"? gard in which they are held. The unbethen we will as naturally add: "there-lief of the heart; the sins of the life are fore doth my soul keep them" The ad-closely allied to the neglect of God's tesmiration of God's testimonics will natu- timonies. Would you correct these ?rally lead to the keeping of them; and turn your feet unto these testimonies—the higher our admiration rises the more. Seek to have the estimate of them which will we keep them, and the stronger will the Psalmist had: then will you be able be our resolution to do so. That we may with him to say: "thy testimonies are

had great pleasure in keeping the com- them more constantly-let our admiratimandments of God. He did not reckon on dwell upon them. We can never exit a task: he did not count it a hardship, haust the study or contemplation of God's He testimonies. Here the student must be ever learning. Truth can never cease statutes were-how perfect-how won- to satisfy; and truth concerning our highest interests-truth concerning God -is a well of which we can never reach the bottom, from which we may ever draw without exhausting its waters. A truth is as fresh to-day as it was a thousand years ago. But we are ever finding some new application of God's truth. It is ever presenting a new phase or aspect. With our varying condition we find a varying application or meaning. revelation of God has sounded the depths of truth: it has embraced its wide circumference, and the circle must include. or be consistent with every possible truth. Every new fact, every additional circumstance, every fresh experience, will be found coinciding with this circle. It was the testimony of an aged christian that he had made the scriptures the object of his daily and unremitting study for 70 years-and that he still discovered new traces of the mysterious love and wisdom of God in them. It is because ing to keep the testimonies of God? -- the scriptures, the testimonies of God, Have we seen their beauty? their value are so little studied -- so little studied with -- their infinite importance -- their appli- the desire and the prayer to be improvcation to our condition as sinners--our ed, that their wonderful character is so And how many never ishing, creatures—who can have no hope peruse them at all. Every book may be but in the salvation provided for us in the read but the Bible. The oracles of etergospel-and who must be constantly de-nal truth are allowed to lie meconsulted. pendant upon divine grace for the power. The lessons of heavenly wisdom are nev-The communications and glorify God:—their adaptation to from the upper sanctuary are regarded moral and spiritual nature—their won- with little reverence. The testimonies derful suitableness to our ignorance, our of God are despised. And though God keep them more perfectly, let us study wanderful: therefore doth my soul keep

them." to the word of God. If you despise that was received by the Free Synod; and, ven or hell-if they excite in you no lished. wonder, no admiration, no love-then, man regarded," &c.

-0-REMARKS

ON THE

" Reply of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, to the Letter of the Free Church Synod declining the Union."

BY THE REV. PROFESSOR KING.

FIRST ARTICLE.

reached scurrility. It appeared some time ago in the of them has shown the greatest desire,

These testimonies are necessary "Eastern Chronicle". From thence it to your salvation. They testify of Christ. was copied into the "Presbyterian Wit-They offer eternal life to you through ness," in its numbers of the 10th and 17th They ask you to be reconciled to of May last. It is understood that the They call upon you to believe in Reply has been since formally approved He that believeth is saved: he of and adopted by the Presbyterian Synod, that believeth not is condemned. Listen at its late meeting in June. No copy word-it you slight the Saviour offered as the document is now before the pub--if you continue in unbelief-if all the lic, there is no interference with what entreaties and warnings of God are e- might more properly be regarded as the qually ineffectual—if God's testimonies business of the Synod, in offering some are despised, whether they speak of hea- remarks upon what has been thus pub-

The Committee, with some regard to

God will bring upon you the threaten- what was due at least to their own chaings of his word and the violence of his racter, have made considerable retrenchjudgments. "Because I called and ye ments in the sneering tone, the insinuarefused, I stretched out my hands and no tions and the direct charges of insincerity and dishonesty, in which the letters of Mr Trotter abounded, against a body of men for whom they professed to entertain high respect, and with whom they express a hope still to be united as members of the same church Enough of this, however, still remains to indicate the influence which has prevailed in drawing up the Reply. This is noticed for the purpose of stating that there is no wish to ascribe what thus remains either to the Committee as a body, or to the Synod who have, perhaps without much Nearly two years ago, a series of Let- consideration, adopted a Reply to which ters, dated from Antigonish, and sub- the Committee, with perhaps as little scribed "Thomas Trotter," appeared in consideration, had appended their names. the "Guardian" newspaper of this city. It is but justice to the ministers and El-These letters, four in number, were ad- ders of the Presbyterian Church to endressed to the members of the Free Sy- tertain the persuasion that there may nod of Nova Scotia, and, although of have been some misgivings-some uncourse unofficial, assumed something comfortable feelings—in agreeing to of the character of a Reply to the Letter such a Reply to a letter which certainly which the Free Synod, at its sittings in did not deal in insinuations—to a letter June 1849, had addressed to the Synod which did not contain a single word that of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Sco- was disrespectful to the body to whom To any one desirous of showing up it was addressed—to a letter which, the blunders into which conceited ignor- while it stated with all plainness and earance is apt to fall, these letters present-nestness the existing difference of views ed a very inviting subject; but, in tak- and principles which precluded the posing it up, there would have been the un-sibility of a union, expressed no feeling pleasantness of having to do with letters but what became one body of christians which, aiming at smartness, had only to entertain towards another from whom, At length, however, on various matters, they conscientiously the substance of these letters appears in differed. It were well if the readers of a new shape The Synod of the Pres- the Reply could, in connexion with it, byterian Church, at its meeting in June read the letter to which it professes to be last year, appointed a Committee to draw a reply. There would then be little difup a formal Reply to the Letter of our ficulty in seeing which of the bodies has Synod; Mr. Trotter being Convener.— been most tender of the character and Before they could have an opportunity the feelings of the other, which of them of reporting to their constituents, the has been most anxious to avoid adding Committee gave their Reply to the pub- to existing grounds of difference, which

wards the other. ted by others." The circumstance that ceremonial law was now abrogated. way as shows that they have no very on as fellow Christians, those who, of the Church? though they may differ from us regardin other respects unobjectionable;" and of this position is Rom. xiv. 1-3, 5. xv. 7. 1 Cor. viii. ix. Let these brethren, they do not in the slightest degree bear to those who were no gods ground that the matters involved were "minor points of religion," but because

although constrained to continue in a longer binding when the Apostle wrote; state of separation, to cultivate and main- although the Christian Church did not tain a feeling of christian kindness to- all at once understand its own liberties. Even the Apostle Peter thought himself When the Reply speaks of the impor- still bound by its authority, when, (Acts, tance of unity among Christians it speaks x. 13, 14,) in answer to the call "Rise, of what every Christian admits, and of Peter; kill, and eat," he said "Not so, what, there is no reason to doubt, every Lord; for I have never eaten any thing member of the Free Synod of Nova Sco- that is common or unclean." But the The authors of that document, voice which three times told him, "What therefore, have no right to say, as they God hath cleansed, that call not thou do with an evident reference to the common," prepared him for understand-Free Church, "We sincerely regret ing his duty in reference to Cornelius, that our efforts have not been reciproca- and was in fact an intimation that the parties may feel themselves constrained it was by degrees, however, that this to keep in a state of separation from light broke in upon the church, it might others, is, in itself, no evidence either be found that while one man believed that they do not feel the importance of that he might eat all things; another, unity among Christians, or that they being weak, would eat herbs; one man make no efforts towards its attainment, might esteem one day above another; This unity cannot exist but as the result another might esteem every day alike. of an antecedent union with Christ—a It was with respect to cases such as oneness of mind with him; and these these, in which the divine appointment, brethren themselves admit "that abuses which at one time had established a difmay unhappily exist in the church which ference, had been withdrawn, and in not only warrant but demand a separa- which the church was in a transition tion." In connexion with this admis- state consequent upon this withdrawal, sion, they illustrate the views which they that the Apostle says, " Let not him that entertain of the cases in which separa- eateth despise him that eateth not; and tion is warrantable, by certain passages let not him which eateth not judge him of Scripture, which they apply in such a that eateth: for God hath received him." Do the brethren really imagine that the accurate or well matured views on the Apostle could have used language such subject. Their position is that we are as this, had, for instance, the eleventh enjoined to receive into our communichapter of Leviticus been still the law

The case was similar with respect to ing minor points of faith or practice, are things offered in sacrifice to idols. The Apostle Paul, and many christians in the proof which they bring in support his day besides, knew "that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one:" and that he however, look a little more closely into could not therefore be polluted by simpthe passages which they have quoted, ly eating of that which others in their and they can scarcely fail to see that ignorance might have offered in sacrifice But he upon the object which they have in knew also that "there is not in every view. It is true, the Apostle, in the man that knowledge;" and that some cases referred to, recommends mutual might feel as if they themselves would forbearance; but it was not upon the be involved in the sin of idolatry were they to partake of such food He warns those therefore who were enlightened, in reality they involved no religious and who knew their liberty, to take point whatever. The time was when care lest by an injudicious use of their the indiscriminate use of meats, and the liberty in particular circumstances they neglect of particular days, "minor might, by the mere influence of their points" though they may be in the eyes example, draw into an imitation of their of the brethren, would, by the express conduct those who were not yet convin-appointment of God, have subjected the ced that the thing in itself was lawful; Israelites to exclusion from religious or- and who would thus stand self condemndinances. That law, however, was no ed, as doing what they believed to be a

science of such, being weak, would thus tempore These were cases, be actually defiled. sed, not where there was a departure on public probationary trials. from God's revealed will, upon the own mind"

Christian body to remain in a state of day of July. separation from another?" but are intended to show that the forbearance inculcated in the passages referred to, being a force cause in which God's word has left us at liberty, can be no rule where Go l's word has not so left us at liberty, but where it has spoken with authority, setting before us something to be believed or to be done; even although it should be the opinion of some tuted, the Rev. Murdoen Stewart, of St. that God has interposed this authority in matters which are of very little importance.

FREE PRESBYTERY OF HALI-

This Court met in the Free Church College here on Wednesday the 24th day of June; the Rev. Alexr. Romans,

Moderator.

The principal business was receiving the Report of the Committee appointed at last meeting to examine Mr. Forbes. The Report expressed high satisfaction with the appearance which Mr. Forbes had made on the different subjects of examination, and strongly recommended the minutes in the case, along with Mr. Forbes's certificates, to the Synod at their ensuing meeting.

Chalmers' Church was given in.

The Court, agreeably to adjournment, met in the same place again on Wednesday the 2nd day of July; the Rev Alex. Romans, Moderator.

transgression of God's law. The con- continued in the chair as Moderator pro-

A minute of Synod was read authoriztherefore, of forbearance to be exerci- ing the Presbytery to take Mr. Forbes Presbytery accordingly examined him on ground that it was a matter of "minor Theology and Church History, in which importance;" but where God's word he acquitted himself entirely to their saleft the parties at perfect liberty: "Let tisfaction. Subjects for trial discourses every man be fully persuaded in his having been prescribed to him, the Presbytery appointed supplies for the differ-The reader then will observe that ent stations up to the end of the month; these Remarks, so fac, do not take up and adjourned, after they had appointed the question "What are the differences their next ordinary meeting to be held which may warrant one professedly in the same place on the last Wednes-

FREE SYNOD OF NOVA SCOTIA.

This Court met here on Wednesday the 25th of June, when the Rev. Alexr. Forrester preached a very seasonable discourse, on the sustentation of the ministry, from 1 Cor. ix. 14

The Synod having been duly consti-George's Channel, was chosen Modera-

On the motion of Professor King, the thanks of the Synod were given to Mr. Forrester for the excellent discourse which he had preached before the Synod, with a request that the discourse be Mr. Forrester acceded to the published request of the Synod.

The Synod authorized the Presbytery of Halifax to take Mr. Forbes on public

probationary trials for license.

Along with the special devotional exercises of Thursday, reports were received, from several of the ministers, of the progress of the Free Church, and of the state of religion generally, in their respective districts. The hearing of that application should be made to the these reports, indeed, occupied a great Synod for leave to take him on public part of Thursday and Friday and Satur-Synod for leave to take him on public part of Thursday and Friday and Satur-probationary trials for license. The day. From the reports it appeared that Presbytery approved of the Report, a- three ministers had in the course of the greed to apply accordingly, and instruct- year been added to the Synod, and aded the Clerk to transmit an extract of mitted to congregational charges, viz, the Rev. Hugh McLeod, in Cape Breton, and Messrs Alexander Munro, and Neil Bethune,in Prince Edward's Island: that A statement of the financial affairs of there were extensive districts still destitute; and that, in several cases, where ministers are settled, the provision made for their support is very inadequate.-This inadequacy of provision having been brought out also in the Presbyterv The Rev. Professor Lyall was chosen Records which had been submitted to Moderator for the current year; but as examination, Professor King, having takbe was not present, Mr. Romans was en a review of the matter which had been thus brought before the Synod, moved, that the Synod having considered the verbal statements made before the country with respect to the state of religion, the amount of ordinances enjoyed, and the efforts made for supporting these ordinances; and having considered the matter brought before them in the Presbytery Records which have been examined particularly with regard to their financial affairs, find that the means at present in operation have been hitherto very inefficient for securing an adequate support for the ministry; find that it is necessary for them to consider what may be the most advisable means for increasing the amount provided for this support; and, in the consideration of this subject agree to take up the overture on their table with respect to the sustentation of the ministry This motion being agreed to, the Overture was read and Mr. Forrester was heard in support of After reasoning, the Synod, adopting the Overture, agreed in terms thereof "that a Committee be appointed for taking the whole subject into consideration, and reporting at next meeting of Synod," and farther, in the mean time, instruct the Presbyteries within whose bounds cases of particular deficiency may exist, to deal with these cases with all tenderness and fart fulness, and to enter the result in the Records.

The Report of the Committee on the Missionary R-cord was given in and approved of. The Committee was re-appointed with the addition of Professor Lyall; and it was agreed that as the Record is the recognised organ of this Church, official notices be made through its pages, and that meetings of Committees &c. shall be held as regularly sum moned when duly advertised through the

same channel.

The Rev. Mr. Forrester gave in a report of the proceedings of the Home Mission Committee, which was approved of The Committee was re-appointed with the addition of the Rev. Alexr Romans, and Mr. George McLeod, Ruling Elder.

Mr. James Liddell gave in a report in reference to the Professorial Fund, and the Current Expenses of the College and Academy, which was approved of; and the Clerk was instructed to record the thanks of the Synod to Mr. Liddell for his valuable and efficient services as Clerk of the College Board. The amount as yet received of last year's col-

lection for the Professorial Fund is only

about £460.

ed the verbal statements made before them by members from different parts of the country with respect to the state of religion, the amount of ordinances enjoyed, and the efforts made for supporting these ordinances; and having considered the matter brought before them in the Presbytery Records which have been examined particularly with regard to their financial affairs, find that the means at present in operation have been hither-to very inefficient for securing an ade-

The Rev. Mr. Dutl gave in the Report of the Synod Fund Committee, which was approved of. The Committee was re-appointed, Professor King, Convener.

Professor King gave in a Report in reference to the collection for the Current Expenses of the College and the Academy, which was approved of

The Rev. Mr. Forrester gave in a report of the proceedings of the Bursary and Library Committee which was apapproved of The Committee was reappointed, Professor Lyall, Convener

The Rev. Mr. Sutherland gave in the R port of the Sabbath Observance Committee, which was approved of; and the Synod agreed to send a Letter of thanks to the Administrator of the Government, for certain changes in the postal arrangements by which the conveyance of the Mail on Sabbath has been discontinued in the county of Pictou. The Committee was re-apointed.

Professor King, in a verbal statement, detailed the proceedings in the College d ring the session of last winter.

Mr. Forrester gave in the Report of the Tract and Cheap Publication Committee, which was approved of and the

Committee was re-appointed.

The Synod appointed that the collections for the different schemes of the Church be made respectively on the same days as formerly, viz., for the Synod Fund, on the first Sabbath of August; for the Current Expenses of the College and Academy, on the first Sabbath of December; and for the Home Mission, on the first Sabbath of May.

Owing to the absence of the Rev. John Stewart, now in Scotland, no Report was given in from the Widow's Fund Committee; but the Committee was contin-

ued.

Inconvenience having been felt from the multiplicity of Commitees, and these composed very much of the same persons, the Synod appointed one College and Academy Committee for managing the few miles' distance, where Philip lately business hitherto conducted by the College Board, the Academy Committee, the College Building Committee, and the Current Expenses Committee.

The Committee was continued to correspond with the Presbytery of New-Brunswick; and Professor Lvall, and " appointed a the Rev John Mu denutation to corre. with said Presbytery at their next meeting.

The Synod adjourned on Monday afternoon, to meet at New Glasgow on the

last Thursday of June, 1852.

NOTICES OF MISSIONARIES.

Passing over the sore trials with which Eliot was exercised in the early death of four sons,-two, after they had entered upon the work of the ministry, and two while in most promising preparation for it; passing over also the clouding of his prospects by the war in which the colonists of New England were involved with Philip, son of Massasoit, a celebrated chief who, during the last years of his life, had been the firm friend of the English; we resume our extracts from Carne at the close of his account of the defeat and death of Philip.

" With his death, all resistance ceased ! his dominions fell into the hands of the colonists, and peace was restored to the settlements, but prosperity came not with it. It was a cruel blow to Eliot, nearly all whose life had been given to his beloved cause, to look around on the plantations ravaged, the dwellings empty, the defences broken, and, more than all, the spirits of his people in despair. Of twelve towns, at the beginning of the war, four only were now undestroyed. Where was he to look for help? It was easy for the colonists, who were in general men of enterprise and commerce, to repair the losses and devastations of the strife; but many and painful years alone had raised his settlements into comfort and order; moreover, the counte-nance and favour hitherto given them were now withdrawn; public suspicion and distrust were abroad. He had to lament also the total defection of some of the Indians, whose professions had lately cheered his heart; the zeal of others also had waxed cold; and he mourned the death of many, whose firm aid and attachment would, in this moment of trial, have been very dear to him.

"He writes, 'My heart hath much ado to hold up my head; it doth daily lead me to the everlasting arms, where alone is my hope and help; the world is a place and state on which I will lean no more.' Pake-

dwelt in his pride; so was Concord, and most of the other settlements; Naticke alone was not wholly wasted, and here he retired for a time, and sought to gather his scattered people together, and restore their habits of industry and tranquility. The store-house was no longer filled with skins and furs for the market; the happy circles were no more gathered beneath their roofs; the sounds of prayer and praise came seldom on the ear; even the psalms that he had composed was neglected; it was a dark dispensation. At the age of seventy-two, it is sweet to sit in the shadow of the tree that we have planted, to listen to familiar sounds; to see the sun go down on our labours; and the faces we have long loved, grow more kind as the night draws near. But he was called to build and to plant at the eleventh hour, to go forth again to the forest and plain,' to wait for his reward in eternity; and he was content to do so .-Eagerly and cheerfully as in the days of his youth, with his staff in his hand, and his leathern girdle about his loins, he left the blackened homes of his settlements, and journeyed to the howling wilderness, if he might but gain new converts to God. It is not easy to regard this man without admiration, It was not with him as in days past, when public approval at home and abroad followed every step, and every hp hailed him as the apostle: men branded him as insidious, traitorous, a lover of himself more than of his country; and for the first time in his life the iron entered into his soul. Wherever he went, the traces of the war were fearfully distinct: the two remote settlements, beside the falls of the Merrimack, were desolated; many of the warriors had mingled in the strife, and their thirst of blood had come again; others listened carclessly to his words, and the lonely missionary saw that his hope was vain. 'I have studied to be faithful to their soils,' he said, as he looked sadly round. Yet his zeal and perseverance were at last rewarded; never was his preaching attended with greater success; his head was lifted again from the dust; perhaps there was something irresistibly impressive, to the Indians, in the venerable man seeking their wilds again, and addressing them with the fire, as well as the charity, of his earlier days. Perhaps, also, it was the will of Heaven to shed a glory round the latter days of its faithful servant, and bid the morn break more beautiful from the night of tears. During the few succeeding years, he had the inexpressible comfort of seeing his churches gradually restored; the assemblies gathered again, and, if a great number of old faces were not among them, there were others equally carnest from other tribes; the plantations again rose around the towns, and good conduct, as well as feelunit was in ruins, like Mount Hope, at a ings of kindness and mercy, prevailed

MASSESSEE SEPTIMENT SERVICE SERVICE SEPTIMES CONTRACTOR

among the dwellers. It is probable this our very self seems torn asunder when we kindling anew the dying embers of religion in the spirit of the Indian, made Eliot's last days more happy than if a continued stream of prosperity had been his lot. His heart overflowed with gratitude, though his mission had never again the same extent or influence as before the disastrous war with Philip; he could not number more than half the towns. He was now induced to spend more of his time beneath his own roof at Roxbury; he had long wished that another pastor should be appointed to his church, on account of his long absences and increasing years. His faithful and loved wife still lived to comfort him; they were drawing near to the end of their journey; so gently did age creep on either that it was uncertain, to the indifferent eye, which would be summoned first; three of his children were still beneath his 100f; his own hearth, at evening, was surely still dear to the weary man. He was now in the eighty-second year of his age, but still free from disease, or much infirmity, when his people consented to his request, to provide a minister in his stead;—a graduate of Harvard College was chosen. 'The good old man,' says his friend, 'with un-speakable satisfaction, gave the garments of the ministry to his successor: he said he could no longer serve them as he would fain do; that they should draw a curtain of mercy over all his failures.' This was not insincere language in his mouth, though old age is the strong hour of vanity; when the passions are dead, when the flowers of life are all gathered, the past career rises in all its pride and memory, and treasures up how much we have suffered and won. am drawing home,' he writes to the Hon. Robert Boyle: "the shadows are lengthening around me: I beseech you to suppress the title of "Indian Evangelist;" give not any glory to me for what is done; give it to God, who hath strengthened me. But the time came that his wife died, and the loss found him all unprepared for it; they had lived so long together, that the idea of separation seemed not to have entered their minds;-the mother of his children;-the companion of threescore years, was laid in the grave by his hand. And when he stood by her place of rest, 'I heard and saw her aged husband, who else very rarely wept, writes Mather, 'yet now with a flood of tears, before a large concourse of people, say, over the coffin, "Here lies my dear, prudent, faithful wife; I shall go to her, but she cannot return to me.' He spoke not of hope or comfort—what had he to do with them-for he must soon be called also.-And now he prepared to depart. No one who has not proved it, can tell how cold and solemn is the loneliness of old age; when that dear and long companionship is taken away—the look, the word, the smile,

oosen on the state of the state

know them no more. His children sought to comfort him, but they were not the love of his early years, the stay of his life of trial. He was still able to ascend the hill on which stood his church, and not long after he delivered his last discourse there; this was four years before his death. Even now, at the age of eighty-two, he persisted in going forth, as far as he was able, to visit his loved settlements; for such was the excellence of his constitution, that his frame was not yet bowed, and his eye was still bright; earth had nothing so welcome to him as to mingle yet a while with his Indians, sit in their assemblies, and listen, when he could speak to them no longer; and the groves, the fields, the isles, that his foot had known so long, were they not dear to him as ever, though his head was white with nearly a hundred years, and his hand shook at last like an infant's? The Indians saw, as they expressed it, that their father was going home. His mind was vigorous to the last. How elevated, how enviable, and above all human joy, were the feelings of that mind, in these last visits to the wilderness; when he entered the dwelling that had received him fifty years hefore, or sat beneath the tree in whose shadow he had first told of the things of life; or rested on the shore, or the boundless plain, once the dominion of darkness and death, but now light and glory had come there. Had he wanted warnings beyond those of his own failing frame, every cottage could have given them -Waubon, his first convert, as well as most of his warriors, were gone to their rest; many had fallen with Philip and Quanonchet; and the few who were yet left, trembled on the verge of life; he saw few of the faces of his earlier days. New tribes, such as the Maquas, had come to dwell near the domain of the unfortunate prince, and to them his words would be as wild sounds; the hour was now past for new efforts, and their reply to his message, to leave the customs and faith of their ancestors, and seek the kingdom of heaven, would perhaps be like the indignant one of another tribe-" My father, shall we say to their bones, Rise up, and go with us to a strange land ?"

He returned, for the last time, to Roxbury, which he never quitted again; the infirmities of old age now came fast upon him. When he could no longer leave his dwelling, the ruling passion was strong to the last; he caused a young Indian, in his primitive ignorance and darkness, to dwell with him, and, as life ebbed away, he occupied himself in teaching him passages from the scripture, with as much ardour and diligence as if a chief of the desert was before him. A fever, with which he was attacked, compelled him to lay aside this the silver hairs—all so like our own, that employment, and he lay in the extremity of his sufferings. On one who had known little pain till the age of ninety, this bodily agony fell heavily; but he said that death was no more to him, than sleep to a weary man. "The evening clouds are passing away," he said; "the Lord Jesus, whom I have served, like Polycarp, for eighty years, forsakes me not. O. come in glory! I have long waited for that coming; let no dark cloud rest on the work of the Indians; let it live when I am dead." Ere his voice failed for ever. the last words it uttered were, "Welcome! Joy!" and his toils were finished, at nearly the age of ninety; what was yet a greater mercy, with a mind strong and unclouded to the close.

(From the Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.) MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

"Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest."

THE EDUCATION AND SUPPLY OF MINISTERS.

Our educational operations exert a powerful influence on the Supply and Educa-tion of Ministers. The Board of Education had its origin in the obligations of the Church to use all scriptural means to increase the number of effective preachers of the gospel. As far back as the day of Makemie, when our ministers numbered less than the Apostles, our Church acted upon the two great principles which now govern the Board of Education, viz. that the increase of the ministry is connected with the use of means, and that both picty and learning are essential qualifications for the office. In order to obtain more ministers, the l'resbyterian fathers assisted pious and indigent young men in their preparatory studies; and encouraged others of suitable character and promise to enter upon a course of education with the hope that God would call them into the ministry. The academies of the Tennents, Allisons, Blairs, Finleys, Smiths, were the preparatory seminaries of the Church-schools of learning and religion established by a hard-working generation to the glory of God, whose providence bles-ses such men, and did bless these in the training of many faithful witnesses of His truth. The principle of aiding indigent students in their course of studies dates back to the origin of Presbyterianism in this country, and was contemporaneous with the policy of sending missionories to the destitute sculements. At that time, if ever, the Church would have been justified is lowering the standard of literary requirements; but even in a day of the greatest straits for men and means, it was determined to send forth only these who were thoroughly furnished for their work. The adoption of the Westminster Confession of

Faith rendered education a necessary qualification for the ministry. The standards of ancient times give the watchword to the present generation; and the Church is labouring for the increase of well-qualified ministers, in the strength of efforts hallowed by an unbroken succession in history, and enlarged to meet its present circum-stances of progress and benevolence.— Hundreds now engaged in preaching the unscarchable riches of Christ, have been assisted in their preparation for this service through the timely co-operation of the Board of Education Among the number are some of the most distinguished and useful servants of the Redeemer in this or any other age. The memorials of the education operations of the Presbyterian Church are co-extensive with the boundaries of its territory and its glory. If the treasures of the Church are in the worth of her consecrated sons, her well-trained ministers are among the richest jewels in her crown of conquest. " llow heautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation ! that sauth unto Zion, thy God reigneth."

Contributions to the Professorial Fund.

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