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THE MISSIONARY RECORD

OF THE

Free Church of Nova Scotia.

PROFESSORIAL ENDOWMENT at Comparities Wasserlie

No. S.

It affords us satisfaction to announce that the extraordinary effort, determined upon at the last meeting of Synod with the view of obtaining by subscription the amount of £7000, has been so auspicious-ly commenced. The Rev. Alex Forrester, one of the metabers of the deputation appointed for the purpose, visited a few of his own congregation in Halifax, on Monday, the Sth, and on Tuesday, the 9th inst., and obtained from 10 individuals subscriptions to the amount of between £300 and £400. This we hold to be a favourable starting, seeing that the Association of Halifax has averaged about a bundred every year in contributing to this fund, according to the plan hitherto in operation. And we have little doubt that as soon as the remainder of the adherents and friends of our cause in this city, can be overtaken, this amount will be more than doubled. On Wednesday the 10th, Mr. Forrester proceeded to Cornwallis, where he was joined by the Rev. Mr. Wright, Free Church Deputy. A Congregational Meeting was held on Thursday which was addressed by both these gentlemen. Though it was not intended to open the Subscription List at this meeting, the people themselves, after bearing the statements of these gentlemen, aggested the propriety of commencing immediately, and £155 were subscribed y five individuals in a few minutes. On Friday and Saturday, the adhering famiies in Beleher, Church, and Cunard reets, and in Upper Dyke Village, were mited, and by these subscriptions the Win now amounted to about £500. On Subbath the 14th the Rev. Messrs. Wright ad Forrester, had arranged to officiate

at Cornwallis, Waterville and Horton, but in consequence of the great inclemency of the weather, it was considered altogether unnecesary to visit the two latter places. On Monday, Mr Wright proceeded to St John, and Mr. Forrester remained in Cornwallis, preaching in three different localities, visiting the families and receiving subscriptions and on Thursday the subscription list showed the amount of £442. The following is an analysis of the Subscription List: - One subscriber, £50; one, £30; five, £25; one, £15; two, £12 10s.; one, £12; five, £10; two, £7 10s.; one, £6 5s.; four, £6; twelve, £5; ten, £3. We have little doubt but this list will yet reach the amount of £500, and this will be a noble contribution from a country congregation towards such an object—even one fourteenth of the whole sum that is required. But the amount is not the only matter worthy of notice in the case of Cornwallis, it was the cordiality, the enthusiasm, manifested in the whole scheme, and the determination on the part of the friends of the cause in that magnificent township to bear their due proportion of the sum to be raised. But to this view of the matter we shall recur in our next. We say, in the mean time, to all the adhering population of the Free Church " Go and do likewise", and the sum will be subscribed before six months roll round.

CIRCULAR.

TOTHE ADHERENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE FREE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Many of you are aware that at the recent meeting of the Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia, we were appointed to visit the Lower Provinces of British North America, with the view of pressing upon you the claims of the Professorial Endowment Fund of the Free Church Collego at Halifax, and of soliciting your contributions on its behalf.

We believe you are already aware of the object of this fund; that it is intended to provide an adequate support for at

least two Theological Professors.

For this purpose the church resolved to raise a capital of £10,000; and it was supposed that if the friends of the Free Church in the Lower Provinces, for whose benefit the College was set agoing, did their duty, that this amount might be realized in the course of four years, during which time, it was understood, the colonial committee of the Parent Church would support the Professors.

The Scheme has now been in operation for five years, and instead of the £10,000 only about £3,000 have been realized, leaving thus a deficiency of £7,000.

This deficiency is, we believe, in a great measure owing to the general failure of the crops, and to the want of a thorough agency to visit periodically the various associations formed for the pur-

pose.

In these circumstances, it was resolved at the meeting above referred to, that whilst the Synod authorize the issuing of the Cards as usual, and call upon the various associations to re-double their dillegence in obtaining contributions according to the method hitherto in operation, a great and vigoreus effort be made, and that the following plan be adopted:—

1. That a Subscription List be opened, and as far as practicable, a direct application made to all the friends of the cause throughout the Lower Provinces.

2. That as soon as the sum of £7,000 be subscribed, the College Board be authorized to give instructions for the payment of the sum either at once or in three annual instalments, as may be most convenient to the subscribers.

3. That every exertion be made to complete this Subscription List before the

next meeting of Synod.

It is for the working out of this Scheme that we have been appointed to visit the whole of the Lower Provinces, and which Scheme we now submit to your earnest and prayerful consideration. It is, no doubt, a considerable sum that is required, but is not the object to be attained—even the placing of the whole of our Collegiate Institute on a permanent basis—is not this object worthy of every ef-

fort, of every act or surparenter: fleet, then, we beseech you, on the unspeakable benefits that will, through God, flow from this Institute, to the Free Church, to Presbyterianism, and to the cause of religion generally ;-reflect, too, on the fact that your sons will, during unborn generations, receive, through this very endowment, a gratuitous Theological Education, in being qualified for discharging the functions of the highest and most honourable of all earthly vocations, -reflect, still further, on the cheering prospect that, through the instrumentality of those trained at this Theological Seminary, hundreds and thousands of immortal souls may be brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and that you have contributed of your substance towards the accomplishment of this glorious object ;-and then, on bead ed knees, consider the means that a gracious Providence hath placed at your disposal, with the inscription written upon it as with the blood of Calvary, ' Occupy till I come", and we have no fear of the result.

(Signed) HUGH McLEOD, ALEX. FORRESTER.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE ROBE FREE CHURCH, AT MUSQUODO-BOIT HARBOUR.

A peculiarly interesting ceremony took place at Musquodoboit Harbour on Wednesday the 27th ult., in the laying the foundation-stone of the Free Church for the adherents of that district. remony is a spectacle not often witnessed in any locality, but when the locality is one yet hardly reclaimed from the wilderness, and lying still in much of the rudeness of primitive nature, with but a farm or a dwelling here and there to break the monorony of the scene, and to remind you that the settler has taken possession of the place, there is something especially interesting in the erection of a house of God, where he may be worshipped, and where the message of salvation may be proclaimed from Sabbath to Sabbath.

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The Rev. George Sutherland has been laboring in the above district, conjoined with Lawrencetown and Lake Porter, for the last year and a half; and his labours have been peculiarly blessed. He has been able, through the blessing of God accompanying his efforts, to gather around him a numerous and devoted people who have felt the Word so much in

is power as to be willing to give of their Morebattle, deputy from the Free Church substance to the Lord, in preparing a tabernacle for him, and that both at Lawrencetown and Musquodoboit Harbour.

The church at Lawrencetown is pretty far on towards its completion, and is finely situated, so as to be seen from a great distance, and looking down upon the sea, ablet its spire will arrest the attention of the mariner far out on the deep, pointing him to a heaven which he is so apt to forget, and inviting his thoughts to the in the hearts of some at least of the worshippers who go to that house of God .also on an eminence, and pleasantly greets the eye from many points in the landscape around. It is the first object the district. that arrests the attention on coming upon belceality for whose inhabitants, with he vicinage, it is intended Both buildes are handsome, and reflect much ereion the architect.

The ceremony on the occasion refertho was peculiarly solemn. The day are exceedingly wet, a service took been the old meeting-house, when adusent doings, and its future prospects. h meeting adjourned to the schoolbe where praise was engaged in, and mediately after the congregation, large is listanding the extreme unfavouraacs of the weather, proceeded to the thurch, a few paces from the schooland the ceremony, and the Rev Mr. al part in it. most public spirit, and by every ho- out in the bitterness of their soul. Le gate of leaven!

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of Scotland, who, along with Professor King and Rev. Mr. Forrester, addressed the congregation on the above mentioned topics.

The congregation have resolved to build the church without any extraneous aid, and it will be well-nigh free from debt when completed. The generous contributions of Mrs. Wallace, towards the building of the church, and of Mr. Anderson, Senior, her father, have greatsme interests which have found a place ly helped to the prosperous state of the undertaking. The church has been named after the Rev. Ralph Robb, in respect The church at Musquodoloit Harbour is for the memory of one whose ministrations have been blessed, and are gratefulfully and affectionately remembered, in

COMMUNION AT MIRA, C. B.

Last Sabbath the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered at Mira, The Rev. Mr. McLeod was assisted on the occasion by the Reverends Messrs. Stewart of West Bay, Fraser of Boularderie, and Wilson of Sydney Mines The congregation was immense the Free Church, its past lustory, its more than sixty miles. The number of people present, on Saturday and Monday, was very great. But the number present on the Lord's day was so great, that, never has there been such a concourse seen, on a sacramental oceas on, in this country. Some have estimated it at seven thousand; but those who have camen, a new paces from the school-ra, where Mr. Anderson, Senior, per-been used to great multitudes and accustomed to form a judgment of their numnester offered up the dedicatory ber, make them no more than six thouser. The scene derived an interest sand. This vast congregation sat down who venerable age and character of and with fixed attention listened to the worthy patriarch who took the prin- heavenly message. Profound reverence The mind thought of his overspread every countenance. being gathered to his fathers, but rows of conviction flew thick amongst an was there to take his place, and them, and not only were serious looks, Andson, should it please God to grave deportment, and weeping eyes re hem-three generations; and a seen in all directions, but also more unthis representative than the son mistakeable indications of deep distress. id no be-a gentleman marked by Thousands were melted. Many cried rable deposition, but what is infinite- of both sexes trembied under the word at er, on humble christian mind, and and in a variety of ways manifested deep merous Gristian heart, who no doubt feeling. It cannot be denied that from e God gary that a house was thus time to time in this quarter, glorious piciously ammenced for his worship. days of the Son of Man had been vouch-God be if the glory, and in that safed, but what appeared most remarkatch may heather souls to himself, ble now was the spiritual glory of the somake it a fithel, the house of God lemnity—the gracious and sensible presence of the God of ordinances. he occasion he distinguished by the few were awakened to a sense of sin and ence of the lev. Mr. Wright, of of their lost and ruined condition as sinmany of God's people declared that it refreshed, is a most interesting locality. was a season of much refreshing to their souls. In conversing with some of the awakened, it was found that their convictions were deep touching the evil and demerit of sin, both original and actual, but especially the sin of unbelief-despising Christ and the offers of the gospel so long-hardness of heart-and gross carelessness and indifference about reli-

gion in times past. Several of those who, in course of last year, became concerned, now communicated for the first time. Others of them, from a sense of the preciousness of the privilege and of their own unworthiness, could not prevail upon themselves to come forward, but afterwards they deeply regretted having allowed so precious an opportunity to pass, and it is truly pleasing to witness their humble and consistent walk, as shewing the genuineness of the work. Amongst the fruits which appear the following may be stated, viz: deep concern for the salvation of the soul, visible outward amendment in the life and conversation, remorse for sin, brokenness of heart and bruisedness of spirit, love to one another, family worship where formerly neglected, meetings for prayer, and intense thirsting after the ordinances of religion. It may be remarked that, among the people in general, there is an air of seriousness and concern which is very pleasing, as indicating that now they begin to feel that religion is no fancy but a reality, that profession or a cold lifeless formality will not do in the hour of need, and that for eternity they must have something sub-The common idea amongst stantial. proud lifeless hearers of the gospel is, that men require only to be informed on the subject of religion. Such know not with the nature of religion, which is not a cold thing, consisting in a set of notions neither infludoctrines, which ence the heart nor affect the life. One themselves far into the smooth dep with striking effect of the revival, with which the Lord has been pleased to visit this portion of his vineyard, sometime ago, is conviction in the minds of all its subjects, that nothing short of a new creation is sufficient, that "Old things must pass away and all things become new."

Mira Place, where the solemn ordinance was administered now for the second time, and where God was again self into the Mira Bay, A along what pleased to make his power and glory to as far as the eye can rich, are sti appear, and where both ministers and ments.

ners, others had their bands loosed, and people have been so often and so much A short description of it may not be uninteresting The River Mira, which perhaps is the largest in the Province and which gives its name to the whole district, is navigable about thirty m'es by vessels of fifty or sixty tons. Within the last four years, two large draw bridges have been creeted. Along its banks. on either side, there are roads leading to the place of meeting. There are also roads from Sydney, on the one band, and Louisburg, on the other, passing through all the intermediate settlements Descending from Grand Mira, by water, and passing several bays and creeks, you arrive at the first Narrows, where you have the Marrion or Upper Bridge a.1 the road from Sydney to Gabarons. For two miles the River widens considerally, and the Mira Church appears at the head of a large Bay, on the South de. Nearly half-way between it and 0.8 fields, the residence of Donald Macach Esquire, on the North side, you come ! the second Narrows, through which da water forces its way with great power-You are no sooner out of this nur. passage than again the River widens and assumes the appearance of a large like with an island of considerable extent it the centre, and wooded headlandsap Next come is pear in the distance. third Narrows, somewhat similar to the former, and now, for four or five mich you find yourself in a wide sheet of wa ter, nearly two miles broad, and studies with wooded islands, varying in exect from one to one hundred and fifty are After sailing down amongst these island you come to the fourth Narrows, where you have the Albert or Lower But and the great road leading from Syday to Louisburg and all along the coast They are unacquainted Here the River assumes a singular and pearance, branching out in bayan creeks of considerable extent andvanty, and high wooded headland ps ters, in all directions, so that, if a shall ger, you feel greatly at a loss hw to po Following the current howere ceed and keeping certain islandson the le and o hers on the right, you ome to the fifth Narrows, about two mes from the North of the River. There it me deep and smooth betweennigh precip tous cliffs, until at last i discharges

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At the Albert Bridge already referred heads our Article, and most earnestly which is so accessible from all the surreading settlements within a circumferonce containing at least one thousand smare miles, the great congregation asdeltered glen at the head of a small bay, between which and the congregation was a thick row of ever green. To the west of this spot there is a high wooded ridge and to the east another of the same The south side was equally well motected by large branchy spraces and The tent stood in the western extremity with a level green tract imuediately in front, capable of containing many thousands and remarkably well awas the place of meeting-a place which, a is believed, will never be forgotten .-Here many have to acknowledge that they received the first impressions of relgion, and that Christ made himself known to their souls. And here there is every reason to hope that many shall eaints in light."

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· Mira, 12th August, 1853.

SYNOD'S HOME MISSION SCHEME.

The saying, "charity begins at home", is often in the month of those who really know nothing of the Bible meaning of this virtue, - is a saying in perfect accordance with the general analogy of faith. We hold it to be the paramount daty of every man to seek, in the use of every scriptural means, the salvation of his own soul. And if he really becomes a partaker of the gospel salvation, he will, the moment he feels its expansive and diffusive influences, naturally long for the salvation of all dear and near to him, and labour and pray that they may be brought to the enjoyment of the same blessings and hopes with himself But will his it may embrace a wider range, and take labour in destitute localities. in a more extensive circle. he makes on behalf of his kinsmen, according to the flesh, will but prepare and

to, where the different roads meet, and would we commend these proceedings to the careful attention of all the adherents of the Free Church No scheme nor operation of our church can surpass this in magnitude, and therefore it is truly graembled. The spot fixed upon was a tifying to find it occupying that position in the deliberations of the church to which it is so justly entitled. It was hard for the church, at the commencement of this and similar undertakings, to frame those regulations that might be necessary for their best and most effective execution. The object and general usefulness of the undertaking might be acknowledged and acted upon by the church, and yet she might require some little experience to enable her to give forth a disdapted for si ting and hearing. This tinet and specific code of rules for the full carrying out of the same. fared with the Home Mission Scheme of the church. There are peculiarities in the Colonies; there is from the very paucity of ministerial labourers an everchanging variety of external circumstances, which must be met and accommodatbe ripened " for the inheritance of the ed the best way possible, or to the extent to which the means are available. This scheme has now been in operation about four years; and the church bas, we trust, during that time, obtained no small amount of knowledge as to the best mode of effecting the end intended. herself of this acquired knowledge, the church, a: the last meeting of her Supreme Judicatory, drew out and sanctioned a few regulations for its future management. The first of these restricted the application of its funds to catechists and missionaries, save in those cases where settled Pastors are enjoined by the Synod to visit certain localities. well known that at the outset a considerable proportion of the funds was devoted to the defrayment of the travelling expenses of the ministers appointed by their respective Presbyteries to visit certain congregations and stations. This was charity terminate here? No; it will attended with considerable inconveni-have its ourgoings, first of all, in reference ence, but it arose in a great measure from to these objects, but this will only be that the want of Catechisis and Preachers to This want Every effort has been now, to a certain extent, supplied through the medium of the College, and therefore there is no longer the same encourage him to go forth and employ necessity of sending stated pastors to vihis energies for the evangelization of the sit these localities. The second regulation is a very important one. It instructs We have been led into this train of Presbytery Clerks to transmit to the conobservation by the perusal of the pro-vener of the committee on or before the ceedings of the last meeting of our Synod 1st of March every year, a list of the sta. in connection with the Scheme that tions in their respective Presbyteries

standing most in need of catechetical or missionary labourers, the efforts made by these stations for the support of the Catechists or Licentiates, and the opinion of the Presbytery generally in reference to these stations. It is impossible for the committee to make a just and equal distribution of the means and agents at their disposal without some such communicati-It is exceedingly desirable, too, that this communication be made rather before than after the time specified, inasmuch as the College Session generally breaks up about the middle of April, and it would be very advantageous that the Students who are to act as Catechists during the summer vacation be appointed some little time beforehand. third rule appertains to the salaries of Catechists and Preachers Here it will be observed, a marked distinction is drawn between the salary of a Catechist, properly so called, and the salary of a divinity Student of the third or fourth years standing, acting in that capacity former is not supposed to have passed through any Collegiate course of education to qualify him to act as a Catechist, and consequently he cannot be considered as entitled to the same amount of remuneration for his labours, however efficient they may be. Besides, it is generally the case in the Colonies, that these Catechists have some other mode of obtaining at least a partial livelihood for themselves and their families, and that in consequence they do not give their undivided time to their catechetical daties. It will be observed, moreover, that the salaries fixed for Catechists and Preachers respectively, is the minimum salary. In several places, it is hoped it may reach a much higher amount. The fourth rule instructs Presbyteries to form associations in the different vacant congregations and preaching stations, for the purpose of gathering in periodically contributions to this fund in addition to the annual col-This is indispensably necessary if the scheme is really to serve the end intended. The income in order to effectuate any amount of good, under God, would require to be either £250 or £300 whereas the annual collection has never strengthening of each other's hands? and yet gone much beyond £80. But over are both striving in their several spheres and above all this, these associations, if to help on the great work which they vigorously worked, will be of vast service have in view?—The Colonial Scheme in training the people to a habit of giving of the Free Church of Scotland is the in support of divine ordinances before a Home Mission Scheme of the Free regular Pastor is placed over them in the Church in these Provinces: Let us not Lord. Such is a brief explanation of the give our plaudits to the one while we are

future management of this scheme, and if these regulations are duly attended to by all the parties concerned, there can be but little doubt that they will be productive of great good.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

As the Colonial Report, given in by Mr. Bonar to last assembly, is in itself brief, we make no apology for submitting it to our readers entire, with the admirable address with which it was followed up by Mr. Bonar. The Colonial Scheme of the Free Church should be peculiary interesting to all residing in, or belonging 10, the Colonies, to whom its benefits extend; and we ought to be seeking to exemplify those benefits in the active exertions we ourselves make for the premotion of God's work in the midst of us, in the several spheres in which we are called to labour. That there is much shortcoming the best of God's servants will be ready to acknowledge. The amount of work done may not be so little, and it may not be here that the shortcoming is to be deplored; but rather in the manner in which it is done. How little is there of the presence of the sput in all t e exertions made ostensibly for the promotion of God's cause, and for the conversion of son's! How fittle is the spirit present in all the efforts for earrying out the great objects of a church of Christ! Is there prayer unceasing for toe church, both with ministers and people, that the work of the Lord may be promoted, and that God may pour down his Spirit in more copious measure? Is there a tender walk among christians,that the work of the Lord may not be hindered? Is there communion with God in private, that the christian may come forth to his work in the Spirit of Christ, and that the Spirit of Christ may be seen in Do christians endeavour to exhihim? bit the Spirit of Christ in their behavior to each other, and in their public actings? While ministers are doing their duty by their people-are the people doing their duty by their ministers? Is there a regulations made by the Synod for the indifferent as to the other; but while we

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admire across the seas, let us remember cation with Government, with the view of The work can be best done, when it is done as the work of Christ. It is not in answer to the church at home, merely, that we are to do it.-Christ calls us to work, and every separace effort should be done for Christ .-An ecclesiastical organization will have a permicions effect, if it destroy individualacting, and if it take away the feeling of individual responsibility. A church pu's us on the field of action, but when there we act for Christ, and as solely in his eye. When Paul and Barnabas were separated for their work, they went forth at the command of the church, but they lorgot the church when actually engaged in the work to which they had been appointed. It is an interesting reflection that in the vast field to which the Colomal Scheme looks, or to which any church, providing for the wants of her expatriated members, or sympathising with destitute portions of an empire extending over the whole globe, sends its muisters or missionary labourers, every such labourer when truly engaged in his master's work plies his vocation even as if he was single and alone in his efforts, and having Christ only to please and to serve. "Go and preach the gospel to every creature, and lo, I am with you alway". We are not to forget our connections with the church, but we are especialy to remember our connection with Christ, and our responsibility to him .-There is a peculiar appropriateness in giving the Colonial Report of the home church in our columns; but it were still better, perhaps, if we had reports of our own to furnish; at all events, when the grand Report, taking in the Colonies at large, has been laid before our readers, h will be well to have such intelligence as may be furnished by every minister of the progress of religion in his own localily, or such items of information as may be interesting, instructive, and encouraging, to tellow-workinen in the same lalour, or fellow-christians in the same warlare.

I. COLONIAL.

1. Australasia.

In ohedience to the instructions of last General Assembly, the Committee have during the past year directed special attention to the spiritual wants of Australia. feeling it to be their duty to provide for their emigrant countrymen, not only after they had settled in that land, but also during their voyage, they opened a communi-

we are the Colonies, and that we are call- making an arrangement for supplying with religious teachers the emigrant ships which were employed in conveying their countrymen, especially those from the Highlands, It was the wish of the Committee to furnish such ships with both a minister and a teacher, but the Emigration Commissioners thought themselves warranted to send only one religious instructor in each ship, except in the case of the "Hercules," to which both a minister and a teacher were appointed.-The committee could not do as they wished in this respect, but they did not hesitate to do what they could. They endeavoured to procure, on the one hand, ministers or preachers who could teach, and on the other, teachers who were able and willing regularly to maintain public worship. They have not been without some success in this; and the following persons have gone out with emigrant ships, who, though they did not receive special appointments, yet took charge of the emigrants with whom they sailed :-Mr Wm. Ross, teacher at Innerleithen. Mr John M'Iver, teacher at Moidart.

Mr. John M'Gaskill, teacher at Stronde, Harris.

The following teachers received not only the commission of the Committee, but also the sanction of her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners to take charge of the emigrants during the voyage :-

Mr Charles M'Kay, teacher at Criech. Mr Simon Morison, from Beauly. Mr Alex. Nicolson from Portree.

The following ministers also engaged to devote part of their time to religious and educational labours among the emigrants on the voyage:

Rev. Allan M'Vean, appointed to Victoria. D. M'Donald (probationer), John barnet, u

John M'Tavish, Besides these, the following have left in ordinary passenger vessels without any special charge of emigrants by the way, altho, it is believed, that they have availed themselves of every opportunity of conducting religious exercises on board :-

Rev. Alex. M'Intyre, for Abalton, N. S. W. Andrew Maxwell, for New England, N. S. W.

Wm. Grant, for N. S. Wales.

Arthur Paul, for N. S. Wales. The following are appointed, and about to proceed to their several destinations:--Rev. Wm. Henderson, for Victoria.

Archd. Simpson, for Victoria. Alex. Adam, for Victoria James Cameron, for N. S. Wales. Archd. Cameron, for N. S. Wales. Hugh M'Kuil, for N. S. Wales. G. Divorty, for N. S. Wales.

John S. Moir, for South Australia. To these younger brethren the Committea have been able to add two of the most experienced and able of the ministers of the

Church; and while they rejoice in the de- joice, therefore, to be able to state, that, with votedness to the cause of Christ, which has led these brethren to surrender themselves to this service, they deeply feel the loss which both the Church at large and their respective congregations are called to sustain .-. These brethren are the Rev. Dr. M'Kay of Dunoon, who will devote himself chiefly to the Gaelic-speaking population, and Dr Adam Cairns of unpar, who goes to Melbourne to form a new congregation from the immense number of our countrymen now crowding into that city.

Still more recently we have been able to appoint another esteemed brother in the ministry, the Rev. Mr. Login of Papa Westray, to the necessitous district of Gipps'Land, in Victoria, and we fondly anticipate that, as in the other two cases, the Presbytery and congregation, which at present enjoy Lis services, will not refuse to confirm the choice which he has himself made of spending the rest of his life in that distant field.

Besides these, they have, in answer to an earnest application, appointed Mr. William Matthew, as assistant to Mr. Lawson, the successful teacher of the Academy at Mel-Various other teachers of good standing and high character have gone out with the recommendation of the committee.

In all they have appointed, besides teachers and catechists, wenty ministers and probationers to Australia, of whom six pos-

sess the Gaelic language. To meet the emergency which rendered these appointments so urgently necessary, the General Assembly authorized us to take steps for raising an extra fund. It is but a small part of Scotland we have as yet visited with this object, but the call has in every place been willingly responded to, and a

sum of £1300 has already been realized. The Australian Churches here been at the same time providing the means for bringing out spiritual instructors to them-seives. There has already been remitted from New South Wales, the sum of £891, and from Victoria £326, making altogether no less a suri than £1217 sent home to assist us in sending out help to this interesting and important field.

Important and seasonable assistance has been afforded by other parties. Not only the Government Commissioners, but also private companies and ship proprietors, have given paranges, either gratis or at greatly reduced rates In some cases, the whole expense of sending out labourers has been borne by private parties. Large contributions of Looks for synodical, for congregational, and for ministerial libraries have also been given by kind and judicious friends.

Besides Australia itself, the neighbouring colonies of New Zealand and Van Diemen's Land, which are of growing importance, have demanded a considerable share of the attention of the committee. We re-

regard to New Zealand, the congregation at Auckland, its capital, after a long vacancy, has been happily supplied by the appointment of the Rev. David Bruce; and that to the congregation at Wellington, after a still longer vacancy, we have been able to appoint the Rev. John Mon of Menmuir, a member of this present Assembly, who will leave in the course of a few weeks. We have received most gratifying intelligence of the arrival and labours of Mr. Dron at Hutt River. An application for a minister, with a guarantee for a portion of the supend, has been received from New Plymouth. Mr Burns continues to labour amongst an increasing congregation at Danedin, in the Free Church settlement at O. tago. In order to provide adequately for that part of the population which is beyond the reach of Mr. Burns's ministry a plan has beer suggested and approved by the committee, for providing a suitable income for a second minister, without entailing any burden on the Church's funds.* Trusting that this

* The following plan has been suggest. The Trustees of the Settlement are ed. proprietors of a large quantity of land for religious uses. Of this a large part is as yet uncultivated. It is proposed that a portion of this, say 50 or 70 acres, should be put into cultivation for behoof of the Church, that the congregation, (without the Minister being involved in the management of the land,) should engage a steward, at ordinary wages, and see the work carried on and the crop sold, and that they should apply the revenue thence arising to the state ble maintenance of the Minister, and such other eccles astical or educational purposes in that or districts of the Colony as may seem most important. According to a statement (in Otago Journal of August 1852) of the Ontlay and Return on the cultivanon of 50 acres of grass land in Otago, not superior in quality to that in possession of the Trustees, it appears that the crop of the first year would be worth £273, and that of the second year worth £510. There is thus afforded a prospect of a sure and speedy provision for the maintenance of Divine or dinances by the Colony uself.

In order, however, to carry out this plan, there is required, in the first instance a sun of money sufficient to stock the farm, to put it under crop, and to maintain the Minister for the first year. In order to this, judging from the statement aiready referred to, and after deducting the cost of the land, which in this case is not required, it appears that about £400 is necessary for the purposes of the farm, or that in all about £600 or £700 must be raised for effectively carrying out this plan. This sum, it is evident, must be raised elsewhere than in the colony. It is not proposed, however, that it be given #

plan will meet with the requisite support, the Committee are anxiously endeavouring to secure the services of a well-qualified labourer. To Van Diemen's Land the committee have appointed Mr L. Campbell, to occu py a station at Oatlands, intermediate between Hobart Town and Launceston, and are in daily expectation of hearing of his arrival.

2. India.

In India, also, this has been a remarka-The interesting at Agra, recommended by a former General Assembly to the care and attention of the committee, has been supplied by the uppointment of the Rev. T. Clarke, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Edinburgh. The Rev. John Milne was loosed by the Presbytery of Perth from his large and deeply attached congregation; and on the 20th April sailed from Southampton to enter on the charge from Southampion to cate. On the Free Congregation in Calcutta, vavacant by the resignation of Mr. Fraser .-Mr Moir continues his labours in Penang, both among the English and the natives, with encouraging success. He is now engaged in building a church, and greatly needs the encouragement and aid of friends at home.

3. AFRICA.

No progress has yet been made with respect to the Cape colony. The Port Natal church, in course of erection for Mr t ampbell, languishes for want of funds, but in every other respect there seems to be much encouragement. ... church at Pinetown is finished and occupied. The Rev. C. Scott, formerly teacher at Innerleithen, has been ordained, and generously serves this station without stipend.

4. MADEIRA.

The Committee exceedingly regret to state, that the Rev. Mr. Burns has felt it his duty to resign his charge at Funchall. Ac intelligence has yet reached us from the office bearers since this resolution was communicated to them; but from the diminished numbers of our countrymen there, and the growing and dreaded advance of the grape disease, which has already thrown so many imo starvation, and from other circumstances, it is possible that the commit-

a donation to the settlers, but merely advanced as a loan, due security being taken for its gradual repayment within a limited period. Before the money is touched, a bend is to be executed by the Trustees se-curing this, and also providing that even after the congregation shall have become selfsustaining, the proceeds of this farm shall e applied to strictly religious purposes ithin the colony, and in accordance with th principles of the Free Church.

tee may not be long able to maintain a stated ministry in that interesting locality .-We have been honoured to do some work We have been permitted to sound the trumpet, and to call out those who would not receive "the sign of the beast," but sought to escape her plagues. It is possible that we and other Protestant labouters are now to be removed, and that darkness and superstition are again to settle over that land, where the saints of God have so signally borne the persecutions of Popery.

5. WEST INDIES.

Here we have peculiar occasion to raise our Ebenezer. Amid the awful ravages of disease, not one of our labourers has fallen. or even suffered, except as they have all been worn out by their exertions. Some important changes, however, have taken place. Rev. Mr Thorburn of Falmouth, exhausted and enfeebled by attendance on the sick, has removed to Bermuda. Mr. Ewing, student in divinity, who, having expect soon to be able to announce the fill- gone to this Island in quest of health, suping up of the Free Church of Bombay, now plied as catechist, the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Thorburn's removal, designs toreturn home. Mr. Brown, missionary catechis; still continues to labour with unwearied dilligence at Stewarton. Mr Noble, the teacher at I' dmouth, fears he will not be able to continue longer than August.

Rev. Mr. Maclure of Nassau, New Providence, after a residence of sixteen years, amid exhausting labours and prevalence of cholera, has sought leave of absence, and returns to this country for a short time.

Rev. Mr Mason continues at Antigua, and, in compliance with his request, we have been able to appoint an able teacher to this station, viz.-Mr G M'Donald, late of the Fortrose Academy.

Repeated application has been made for a teacher and an additional minister for Bermuda. The former only as yet we have been able to send. Mr Houston, late teacher at Borgue, fully qualified for that high kind of school which it was desired to establish, has, after full consideration, been appointed,-and has taken his departure for the scene of his future labours.

At Trinidad, the congregation and extensive district under the charge of Rev Mr Church, and the interesting congregation under the care of M. Henrique de Vierio, continue without any material change of circumstances, and in both of these labourers the committee place entire confidence.

6. SOUTH AMERICA.

Honduras has, during the last year, been visited with great sickness. Our minister, the Rev. Mr Arthur, has been subjected to severe personal affliction. Through the kind providence of God, he has been preserved and restored to health, and has returned to his arduous duties with zeal and devotedness. In addition to the work of the ministry, he at present superintends a most

important and flourishing school, for which licentiate, who has been labouring there the committee have not yet been able to during the greater part of the year. Sevefind a suitable teacher.

7. CANADA.

Both in Canada and Nova Scotia, our pecuniary assistance is now almost entirely confined to an annual grant towards the maintenance of their college. The Canadi-The Canadian Church is new so vigorous and prosperous, as to promise scon to be independent even of this aid. They still look, and may for a longer period, continue to look to us for aid in adding to their number of mir's. As to this past year, we are happy to he able to announce the appointment of the Rev. W. B. Clark of Maxwellton, to the congregation at Quebec. We have also had the privilege of sending and recommending several probationers, viz. Mr S. Young, Mr James Smith, Mr Hugh Campbell, and Mr J. C. Brown.

8. NOVA SCOTIA.

Here we have to record the completion of the buildings of the new College at Halifax, and the steady progress of the institu-tion as a promising means of supplying the spiritual necessities of that important country. At an early period of the winter there were twenty-two students in attendance on the classes of the college. Nine of these are engaged with the preliminary branches under Professor Lyall. Six are first year's students, and seven are second year's students, in theology, under Professor King. There are about thirty-eight pupils attending the academy, under the charge of Wr George Munro, the rector, assisted by Mr. James Fowler, and Mr. Neil M'Kay. Each teacher has his classes comfortably accommodated in a separate apartment; and all this without interfering with St. John's school, which continues to be numbrously attended, and most efficiently conducted under the superintendence of Mr William Murray and Mr Hector M'Kay.

To the important congregation at St. John's, Newfoundland, we have been able to appoint the Rev. M. Harvey, formerly of Maryport in Cumberland, who has entered on his labours with every prospect of great success. To Picton, in Nova Scotia itself. which has been so long vacant, we are about to send Mr Murdoch Sutherland, who has just been licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and who has been long the object of that congregation's desire. It is hoped in the course of a few weeks he will be ordained, and on the way to the work that there awaits him. Mr. Ross, a probationer, has recently gone out to this Synod. He has been most usefully employed in different important localities since his arrival.

9. NEW BRUSWICK.

We have provided temporary supply for the vacant church of St. John, in the city of and Rev. Mr Key has been ordained as mi-St John's, by appointing Mr W. Elder, a

ral vacancies still exist in this Presbytery, which will require the careful consideration of the Committee.

10. CHANNEL ISLANDS.

The Rev. James Stewart has been ordained first pastor of the Free Church at St Helier's, Jersey, and has organized a promising congregation. And the Rev. James Dan has opened a preaching station at Alderney, which is already in a very flourishing condition.

11. COLONIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CON-TINEST OF EUROPE.

Gibraltar has been during the year supplied by the Rev. H. Martin of Panbride, the Rev. Dr Landsborough of Stevenston, and the Rev. L. Irving of Falkirk, and is now supplied by the Rev. Alex S. Patterson of Glasgow. The church is fast advancing to completion, and the sum collected for it at present amounts to upwards of £3000, (of which £700 have been contributed on the Rock,) while the estimated expense, exclusive of manse, is £4000.

Malta has been supplied by the Rev. John Robertson of Saline. The school under Mr Wilson continues to flourish, and to rank at the head of scholastic institutions at Valetta. The manse, not at present required for our minister, has afforded a temporary refuge to a Turkish merchant, who has had to flee from the cruelties of the Mohammedan creed because of his conversion to Christianity, and who with two of his family has been publicly baptized in our church there, in presence of a large congregation, composed of very various classes, all intensely interested in this unusual event.

II. CONTINENTAL.

A statement of the operations of the Committee, which are more properly Continental has recently been laid before the Church.

The institution at Amsterdam, which is designed for the education and preparation of missionary labourers among Papists as well as Jews, at d therefore is in part connected with this committee, has been opened with good prospects. Ten missionaries have been under training, and two of them will be at work this summer.

The Rev. Mr. Williamson has been comcelled, by the state of his health, to resign his impo tant charge at Louvain, and amid the heartfelt regret of his much attached flock to leave that country, and, in the mean time, to seek rest in a warmer climate.

An earnest application for a minister has been made to the committee by Scotchmen living at Landanau, in France. With this request the committee have not yet been able to comply.

A new station has been opened at Genoa,

Beyond this, the committee have little to report of active Continental operations during the past year. Their want of funds, now so far supplied by the recent collection, must account for this. They have, however, maintained intercourse, as opportunity offered, with those churches and societies with whom they have had previous connection. In particular, they have sent to the Waldensian College at La Tour, a small present of books, chiefly illustrative of the history and constitution of this Church .-They have proposed to friends in this country to endow one of its professorships, as a permanent benefit to that interesting people; and one of our friends in Gibraliar has been the first to subscribe towards the object.

The committee have been made acquainted with the existence, among the Reformed congregations in Eastern Prussia, of a considerable number of the descendants of of space. Scotch families, who had fled from this country. One of these congregations, which is poor and has been sorely tried, has solicited the aid of this Church; and the committee have voted the sum of £30 per annum for three years, towards enabling it to obtain a minister.

Beyond the range of those cases in which pecuniary aid is needed or looked for from this Church, the committee have been led to open up communication with Christian brethren in various Foreign countries.

Aware of the growing desire throughout Germany, both to revive evangelistic activity and to promote ecclesiastical reformation, the committee appointed a deputation to attend the last annual meeting of the German Kirchentag .- a society composed of many of the most evangelical and enlightened ministers and laymen in Germany; and though no member of the deputation was able to be present, the intention of the committee has been acknowledged in terms of the warmest gratitude, and an earnest desire expressed for our fellowship In order at once to testify our Church's affection for Christian brethren of every name, and to make more extensively known its testimony to the truth of Christ, the committee have sent several presents of a few Free Church books to influential parties connected with

the Kirchentug,
With the Swedish Church, also, the committee has during the past year been brought into friendly intercourse. The revival of evangelical life, which seems at present to be taking place in many portions of it, invests its present condition with peculiar interest, and excites lively hopes for its future prosperity. An ardent desire for increasing acquaintance and fellowship with the Free Church of Scotland has been expressed by some of its most eminent ministers. One of them has translated into the language of his country the admirable Cate-chism, for which we are indebted to Mr. Gray of Perth, on the constitution and prin-

ciples of the Free Church, and a large editition has been printed at Upsala. The committee have also recently had the honour of receiving a most gratifying and brotherly letter from the Archbishop of Upsala, to whom they had presented a small selection of books illustrative of the history and constitution of this Church. This letter will be laid before the Assembly.

Our correspondence has not been confined to Churches within the limits of Europe. Some time ago we received a very friendly communication from the Evangelical Society of the Dutch Church in Batavia. Knowing the evangelical character and objects of that Society, we have had greatpleasure in reciprocating their desires for our friendship.

We have been obliged to defer Rev. Mr. Bonar's speech till next number, from want

REPORT OF THE SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

In laying before the Synod a report upon this very important subject, the attention of the committee was directed to the fact

First, That very inadequate views prevail respecting the Lord's day.-This lies at the foundation of every error in practice. Some are enslaved to vice; others under the power of practical infidelity and worldliness. Both alike hate its sacredness and disregard its claims. Popery is one of its worst enemies. The Man of Sin is hostile to the day as well as to the word of the Lord.

But not a few who would be regarded as orthodox or evangelical. regard the Sabbath as a mere Jewish institution binding upon no other peo-Or a mere human institution, and therefore binding upon no man as a part of his religious belief and observance. And but for the influence of a Sabbath-keeping people, the practices would more frequently correspond with the professed views.

Besides all these, many, whose professed belief is all that could be reasonably desired, being surrounded with persons of such views and practices as above stated, destitute of regular ordinances and proper religious instruction, and themselves too dead to spiritual and eternal things, frequently indulge, to a fearful extent, servance will bring its own reward. in Sabbath desecration. The Sab- Its profanation is most heinous. cessation from the more open worldly employments, and not a racred season for spiritual exercises in communion with God.

Too few regard it as one of our greatest blessings, not only in a spiritual but even in a temporal point of view. The grounds upon which it rests, the benevolent designs of its institution, and the blessings which it conveys to us, are not well consider-The doctrine of our "confession" is most explicit. It says, "As it is of the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment, binding upon all men in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath to be kept holy unto himself". The relation in which we stand to God as his moral creatures, is the foundation on which this institution rests, He is our creator, and has a right to our homage. We are his creatures, and are under an obligation to render that homage. relation must continue while creator and creature continue; and while the relation continues, His right to receive, and our obligation to render homage, must of necessity continue The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment lay the obligation to observe it upon the high unchangeable ground—the equity of it. The positive command and the whole tenor of the revealed will confirm this view, enforce the claims, facilitate the observance, and regulate the manner and measure, but do not create the necessity of the Sabbath. views, and corresponding observance of the Lord's day must lie at the foundation of practical religion, and will be a favourable index of a heart right with God. The Sabbath can never be neglected where religion is vital, nor ever be properly observed where vitality is wanting. Its faithful ob-

bath, with too many, is thus a mere comtemns the goodness that grants the Sabbath, the authority that commands it, the fellowship and blessings to be enjoyed upon that day. dom fails to bring its punishment along with it. Its violation too frequently escapes the punishment it merits at the hands of men, because they are too often unwilling to urge the law. But this sin, above all others, shall not escape the righteons judgment of God sooner or later.

> Secondly. The attention of the committee has been directed to various species of Sabbath desecration, with the efforts put forth to prevent them. and further suggestions in connexion with this subject.

There is a great amount of Sabbath desecration permitted and practised within doors and in families which does not, therefore, meet the public eye, but is clear before him who seeth in secret, and will bring the hidden things to light and open The aged paview at a future day. rents and masters who should be examples, guides, and teachers of good things, too freely indulge in idle conversation, carclessly perform or entirely neglect Sabbath duties in seeret and in the family, so that instead of having a church in the house, and the family being mutually edified and trained up for the Lord, growing indifference to sacred things gradually but steadily prepares the way for real atheism. Many labour in their houses, upon the evening of the day of preparation, to so late an hour and to such excess, as to unfit them for the Sabbath when it comes. How frequently is the drowsiness in the public assembly betraying an ill-spent evening of preparation, turning the Sabbath into a mere carnal cessation from more public labour instead of a spiritual feast of communion with the blessed God. Many enter upon business or journeys late in the week, and plead a sort of imaginary necessity for continuing them upon the Lord's

day. Others walk and ride for plea- bath breaking. Many go to the mur-

injurious species of Sabbath desecra- the evil. tion.

potent if put in force.

a christian ministry to remind and are in the habit of seeing such open, urge the civil magistracy to the dis- constant Sabbath profanation, and in charge of their duties, for the glory so many forms, become inured to it of God, good of society, and protec- and indulge in it, without seeing the tion of our best interests, from the heinousness of so doing. daring encroachments of impiety.

sure, or perform their visits upon the ket from considerable distances, re-Sabbath without considering that the main till a very late hour of Saturvisitation of the sick wilfully delayed day night, and either remain in pubtill Sabbath is Sabbath profanation lie houses in town or on their way, to him who does it in the light of the and may then be seen returning to their homes with their horses, loads, To meet these and the like evils, earts, trucks, with all sorts of ware. these claims of the Sabbath should A petition has been presented to the be prominently held forth in the sanc- House of Assembly, in order to tuary's ministrations. Sabbath sins change the market from Saturday to should there be ever set forth in their Friday, so that such as travel upon heinousness, connexions, and conse- Sabbath could be brought under the quences. Church discipline should action of the law. But it was unbe brought to bear upon the more successful at that time; and though open and flagrant cases. The unit- its prayer were granted, so long as ed efforts of ministers, sessions, and public houses are permitted to be churches, should be faithfully direct- open, the change of the market ed to these very prevalent, and most would have little effect in preventing

In Prince Edward Island, also, Liquor drinking and public houses, Popery is a source of a fearful athe greater number of which are more mount of Sabbath desceration. They or less open on Sabbath, is, perhaps, go in to Town on Saturday, do busimore productive of Sabbath descerances at the market, remain, and per-tion than all other means put toge- haps attend chapel on Sabbath, and ther. The Mayor and magistrates in then return home in the afternoon, the city of Halifax have been vigor- with their cart or other loads. Not ously and successfully putting the law a Sabbath passes without more or in force, and are setting a most en- less of this. Romanists frequently couraging example before a christian keep the low drinking houses, which public and christian magistrates. In are haunts of degradation and profa-Prince Edward Island any such ex- nation. In the country they engage ertions are unknown, though the call in various kinds of secular employis even louder, and the law qually ment; and when reproved either at once take their stand under the per-In Cape Breton the Rev. Mr. Me- mission of the priest, or own the Lead insisted upon a somewhat re- wrongfulness, but continue in the lentless magistrate, to put the law in practice. The priest who daringly force against such as were in the ha- comes between God and the conscibit of setting or raising their fishing ence, and openly breaks the comnets, with good effect. These are mandment and teaches others the encouraging examples, and it is mat- same, is the more guilty party. Proter of gratitude to God that there is testants who live among them, or

Some efforts require to be put In Charlotte Town, P.E.I., a mar- forth, first in the way of enlightening ket is held on Wednesdays and Sa- the minds of Protestants who have turdays of each week, which is a little more than the name, and secondsource of an alarming amount of Sab- ly on behalf of those precious souls

who are enslaved of Popery and of the efforts beyond every expectation. God and man.

the Mail, and labour in Post Offices, are discontinued, both in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. vigilance is required, for parties will be ready clough to return to their former practices, and though law prevents the party who conveys the mail from Pictou to Antigonishe and Cape Breton, from running on Sabbath, he permits his servants to run carriages and earry passengers, to the great annoyance of the peaceful inha-The magistrates along that bitants. line have it in their power, and should certainly be urged to prevent this unhallowed encroachment, wherein not the servants, but the master, is to blame.

A small quarterly publication, called "The Sabbath Observer," has been commenced in Halifax, which should be widely circulated, and is calculated to be highly useful in conveying sound views and information regarding the Sabbath and the Sabbath question, as one of the great matters at issue between the children of God and the children of this world, in our day. The attention of churches ought to be directed to the rising generation by means of Sabbathschools, religious instruction and information. It is of the utmost importance to the future of these eventful and pregnant times with what zeal and dillgence correct views are infased into the mind of the rising generation. It was casting the salt into its springs of water that healed Jericho's barrenness, and it is the diffusion of sound knowledge, which the Lord may make saving, that can heal barrenness of the present and prevent that of the coming generation. And if families, office-bearers in the church, and civil rulers, acted harmoniously to curb the lawless from open annoyance to society, and bring the Word of the Lord in direct contact with conscience, success would crown

the priesthood, the enemy of both The Lord would be on our side, who is more of might by far than all oppo-It is gratifying that the running of sing powers; and past success should convince every christian that this is a cause which He will never for-Yet sake.

ALEX. SUTHERLAND, Convener of Sabbath Committee.

Contributions to the Professorial Fund.

Halifax.

Mise William and			
Miss Kidston, col.			
Rev. Professor King and Lady	£7	10	0
Mr. Robert Boak	2	0	0
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Donald McMillan

Hugh McNeill

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