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Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, *ic.*

Vol. I....No. 8.

HALIFAX, AUGUST, 1855.

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THE CHURCH AT HOME.

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

SATURDAY, June 2.

The Assembly met to-day at half-past seven—the Moderator in the chair.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Dr. Macfarlane, Riddington, gave in the Report of the Foreign Mission Committee:—

Dr. Charles, Kirkowan, in moving the approval of the report, complained of the inadequacy of the funds, whether as compared with the resources of the members of the Church or the sums raised by other Christian bodies engaged in the same great work. He ascribed the comparatively limited success of the mission to the deficiency of the Church in faith, zeal, and earnestness; and never, until she shook off carnality, selfishness, and sloth, attained a higher measure of Christian life, and woke up to a higher sense of her responsibilities, would she rise and shine as she ought on a dark, troubled, and sin-slaying earth. The Moderator then spoke of the result of the efforts of missionary labour in India, and expressed his conviction that the various agencies employed there were telling on the human mind, in a way that sooner or later must issue in the moral and spiritual regeneration of the people.

Dr. Craik, in seconding the adoption of the report, eloquently enforced the principles on which alone they could expect to prosper in the great work of evangelising the heathen, and said that the great object which the Church of Scotland was pursuing was that she might send forth the knowledge of the Gospel to every one that would listen to the sound.

The Moderator then conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Macfarlane for his very interesting report.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Dr. Craik read the report of the committee on Sabbath schools, in which it appeared that in the bounds

of twelve Synods there were 1283 schools, with 90,546 scholars on the roll, an average attendance of 67,577, and 7030 teachers, showing in all these respects a marked increase since 1851. Instead of 1283 schools now reported for only twelve Synods, the number in 1851 was 1095 for all the parishes then reporting; instead of 90,546 scholars now on the roll, the number then was 63,179; and instead of 7030 teachers now reported, there were then only 4927. The committee having had under their consideration the subject of providing one uniform system of lessons for the schools, recommended that this should not be gone into, and they concluded by stating that the examination of the various schools in the twelve Synods that have been reported, gave evidence of such influence and vitality in the Church of Scotland "as might well put to silence the assertions of her open enemies, and correct the misrepresentation of those who seem to imagine that because division and dissent exist in Scotland, the Established Church ought quietly to retreat from her prominent position and distinctive character."

Mr. Horne, Corstorplive, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that he looked on this as one of the most valuable schemes of benevolence in which the Church was engaged.

Dr. Robertson seconded the motion. He considered that the progress of Sabbath Schools was one of the most hopeful signs of the times.

The thanks of the Assembly were then conveyed, through the Moderator, to Dr. Craik.

EDUCATION IN INDIA.—Dr. Bryce moved that the overture on this subject be now read.

The overture from the Synod of Fife, having been read by the Clerk.

Dr. Bryce further moved that the official communication from the Government of Bengal, addressed to the missionaries, be also read.

This having been agreed to, and the communication setting forth the conditions on which the government of Bengal were prepared to grant aid out of the public treasury to the schools and missionaries of the Church of Scotland, at Calcutta, read,

Dr. Bryce said—I rise, Moderator, to direct the attention of the Assembly to the very important subject now brought by these overtures under your consideration.

I have to move that "the General Assembly having had before them a despatch on General Education in India, and duly considered the same, and also having considered the conditions on which the Indian authorities are ready to afford aid in carrying out this object to the Christian institutions now engaged in the work of native education, resolve that these conditions as such as the Church of Scotland may accept for her schools in India."

Dr. Grant, as one of the majority in the Mission Committee, stated the reasons which he had formed his opinion that the grant should not be accepted. His conviction was that in consistency with their principles as Christian men, and as a Christian Church they must refuse the so-called boon. He had read the despatch of the India Board with unaffected surprise, as he did not meet in the course of it one line which proved that it had been penned by men who believed in the Christianity of our land. The Bible was practically pushed into a corner. True, it was in the school library, but it was not in the school room, and if it had to be consulted, it must be consulted privately. This was just the principle on which many individuals and Government were at present acting—they found that men differed in opinion on religious matters, and their course for this was to ignore religion altogether. He asserted that the operation of these grants would tend directly to prevent the Christianising of India.

Dr. Robertson moved that, "having learned the terms of the Despatch on the subject of Education in India, of January, 1854,

the General Assembly, having regard to the primary object of the operations of this Church in India, as of an essentially missionary character, does not consider itself at liberty to accept of the grants in aid on the terms on which they have been offered in the Despatch, and the House instruct the committee on Foreign Missions to furnish the missionaries in India with copies of this deliverance."

Dr. Charles seconded the motion.

The House divided, when the motion of Dr. Robertson was carried by a large majority.

The Assembly adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock till Monday.

MONDAY, June 4.

The Assembly met to-day at eleven—Dr. Bell, and for some time Dr. Grant, presiding.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION BILLS.—Dr. Grant read the draft of petitions proposed to be transmitted to Parliament in accordance with the resolutions of the Assembly against the Education Bill of the Lord Advocate, and in favour of the measure of Mr. Stirling. The reverend Doctor said it was agreed to transmit the petitions to the House of Commons immediately, and those to the Upper House if or when either of the bills referred to reached that stage. He would take the opportunity of proposing that the petition to the House of Lords be entrusted to the Duke of Buccleuch, whose conduct and kindly use of his powerful influence in support of the views of the Church in this matter entitled him to their infinite admiration and gratitude. In the House of Commons there was a worthy scion of the same worthy house, a young nobleman who had taken what he might call a hereditary interest in this matter, and who had twice, with great eloquence and feeling, expressed his views on this subject to the House. He begged to propose that the petitions to the House of Commons be entrusted to the Earl of Dalkeith, the Member for this county.

The drafts were approved of, as were also the proposals to transmit the petitions to the noble persons named.

EXTENSION OF EDINBURGH NORMAL SCHOOL.—Dr. Hill read the report of the Special Committee appointed along with the Education Committee to consider the subject of the new arrangement consequent on the altered scheme of examination. They reported their opinion that it was absolutely necessary that considerable additional accommodation should be provided, and that it was the most expedient course that a separate female training school should be erected, which would leave in the present building the requisite accommodation for male students, and also room for a museum and laboratory. The committee recommended the Assembly to grant, for the purpose of raising the necessary funds, an extraordinary collection, which, they suggested, may be fixed for the second Sunday in May, 1856.

The report was approved of.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.—Dr. Muir read the Report of the Sabbath Observance Committee. It remarked that the Church's Confession declared the awful sanction and the matchless uses of the Sabbath institution, and that Confession was embodied in the law of the land. And though to human legislation Sabbath observance owed neither its authority nor its claims, yet the boon and advantage were not small by which, in promoting Sabbath observance, the Church of Scotland gathered aid from the country's statutes. What with the legislative character given by Act of Parliament to the Confession of Faith, as embodying the Sabbath ordinance, and what with many a civil enactment on the subject, there was in this matter (as the late Lord President Blair said) "no defect in the law as it stands. The statutes now in force, with respect to the observance of the Sabbath-day, are sufficient for the checking of whatever evils might arise."

As for themselves, the committee begged authority to carry on still further their attempts to promote the cause of Sabbath observance, which they commended to the prayers and exertions of the Church.

Dr. Grant, after some remarks on various subjects that had occupied the attention of the Committee during the year, paid a warm tribute of admiration and gratitude to the Convener of the Committee, whose prudence, wisdom, and Christian zeal were conspicuous in this as in many other departments of the Church's work. Having important active duties to perform, and incessant calls on his time, his Rev. friend, who had now for many years borne the heat and burden of the day in discharging the duties of a large and important parish, and in doing so with unceasing assiduity, and most eminent conscientiousness, he, instead of employing that spare time, which the youngest among them found it so difficult to secure, in the enjoyment of literary study, lent himself cheerfully and unremittingly to all those measures which, through the Committees of the Church or otherwise, tended to promote her general interests, and those of the religious institutions of the land. He moved that the report be approved of, and the committee reappointed to continue their labours, and that the thanks of the Assembly be conveyed to the Convener, and through him to the committee.

Dr. Hill seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Moderator then, in appropriate terms, conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Muir and the committee.

LAY ASSOCIATION.—The Report of this Association (which has already been published) was laid on the table of the Assembly, and, on the motion of Dr. Hill, the cordial thanks of the Assembly were tendered to the Association for their efforts in behalf of the Church's Schemes.

OVERTURES ON THEOLOGICAL TEACHING.—A Report was read from a Committee which was appointed to consider five overtures on

various matters in connection with this subject. In reply to the overture of the Presbytery of Perth, the committee stated that the declaratory Act of last year, prohibiting students of divinity, before license, conducting public worship at the ordinary hours of divine service, gave no sanction to their doing so at other times. In answer to the overture of the Presbytery of Dalkeith, the committee did not deem it necessary that separate Professors should be appointed to teach pastoral theology, though they recognized the importance and necessity of its being taught. The overture by Dr. Woodford, that before students were admitted to the Divinity Hall they should have obtained the diploma of B. A. or M. A., the committee considered important, but were not prepared to recommend its adoption. Two other overtures on kindred matters were also partially approved of by the Committee.

Dr. Hill moved the approval of the report, and that the Committee be re-appointed to carry out their suggestions, and give further consideration, if necessary to the overtures.—Agreed to.

THE ENDOWMENT SCHEME.—Dr. Robertson read the report of the Endowment Committee. After quoting from last year's report, the plan in which the committee proposed to aim at endowments for about 150 chapels, taken in five groups, to be endowed by provincial subscriptions, the report stated, that while some had been criticising the proposed plan, though in a friendly spirit, and while many more were deliberating on its merits, not a few had already decided to give it their countenance and support. During the past year, subscriptions had been made in conformity with this plan to the amount of £9600; and several additional subscriptions had been promised. Subscriptions had been made during the past year, also in full complement of the requisite endowment capital for seven new parishes, and in partial provision of such capital for three others, amounting in all to £9040. This was exclusive of several sums which had been paid into the hands of the Treasurer for like objects, and of which the amount was £1358 Os. 6d. The amount of church-door collections, including parish and congregational subscriptions, and subscriptions and donations from private parties to the central fund, was £3162 2s. 6d.

The report then gave the following abstract of the income of the Scheme for the past year:—1. Church-door collections and subscriptions, and donations to central fund, and donations and subscriptions for particular churches, £4520 3s. 2. Contributions in complement of full endowment of seven churches, and in partial endowment of three additional churches, £10,704; value of endowment of additional church by his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, £3100. 3. Additional subscriptions in Dumbartonshire, £369 10s. 4. Provincial subscriptions, viz., the Duke of Buccleuch, £500; the Duke of Roxburgh, £600; the Earl of Haddington, £400; Lord Douglas, £2000.

an heritor in Fife, £3000; Mrs. Bruce of Falkland, £500; Sir James Fergusson of Killykran, Bart., £500; Mr. Campbell of Blythswood, for churches in Paisley, £400; James Johnston, Esq., of Alva, £400; James Luamsden, Esq., Glasgow, £300; Thomas Erskine, Esq., £100; — Aitken, Esq., £200; — Knox, Esq., Glasgow, of Linnathin, £200; Peter White, Esq., Glasgow, £200; Edward S. Gordon, Esq., advocate, £100; the Earl of Leven and Melville, £200; (in all £9600 of special subscriptions); the total subscriptions for the year 1854-5 being thus £28,293, 13s.; and for the amount reported up to the Assembly of 1854 having been £165,907, 15s. 8d., the gross amount of subscriptions to the Scheme had now reached the sum of £194,201 8s. 8d.

Dr. Bisset, in the absence of Principal Lee, who had to withdraw on account of indisposition, moved that the report be approved of, and that the best thanks of the Assembly be given to Dr. Robertson and the committee. He said he believed that Dr. Robertson had brought qualities to the promotion of the scheme such as perhaps no other individual within the Church possessed. They could not forget the marvellous progress, under the most unfavourable circumstances, that this scheme had made, and how the rev. Doctor had hoped amidst the fears of others, and how with untiring energy he had prosecuted the work which enabled him this day to present so gratifying a report.

Professor Campbell, Aberdeen, seconded the motion.

Dr. Grant (who presided in the absence of the Moderator) conveyed the thanks of the house to Dr. Robertson and the committee. He adverted to the magnitude of the work, as requiring continued, vigorous, and sustained effort, and as being fitted only for one who was of sanguine temperament, and who would persevere amid discouragements. It was a work which had already achieved a large amount of good; but the reverend convener was but reaping the first fruits of the scheme—its harvest he would never see gathered. He was bestowing, from the very nature of the scheme, a boon on generations yet unborn, many of whom would yet rise up and call him blessed.

THE MISSIONARY RECORD.—Dr. Simpson read the report of the joint Committee on the Schemes, proposing some change in the arrangements of the *Missionary Record*, and in the other details for conducting the business of the Schemes.

Professor Swinton moved the approval of the Report.

The report was received, and the committee reappointed.

THE GAELIC SCRIPTURES.—Dr. Colvin Smith, Inverary, gave in a report from the Committee of Assembly on the Gaelic Scriptures. The Committee stated that they had the present version of these Scriptures under their consideration, and had made various alterations in the translation, with the view

of making the present authorized version more accurate. The alterations, however, were not very numerous, and a specimen-sheet, showing the alterations made on several books of the Old Testament, was submitted for the inspection of the Assembly. The Committee trusted that they would soon, if re-appointed, be able to report that the whole Gaelic Scriptures had been subject to the same revision.

Dr. Norman McLeod thought the Assembly were under great obligations to the Convener of the Committee. He had brought to the work of revising the Gaelic Scriptures an intimate knowledge of the language, and there was no individual more capable than he was of terminating the task successfully. The rev. Doctor called the attention of the Assembly to the want of any authorized party to superintend the printing of editions of the Gaelic Bible, in consequence of which any person was at liberty to print them; and the danger was, that the text might thereby get corrupted.

Dr. Hill expressed the sense which was entertained of the value of the Committee's services, and moved their re-appointment, with instructions to them to apply, if they thought necessary, to Government, with the view of getting a competent party to superintend the authorized version of the Gaelic Scriptures.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee re-appointed.

CHAPEL DEBTS.—Professor Swinton gave in a report from the Committee for the Liquidation of Chapel Debts. It stated that, independent of the munificent bequest of £2000 from the late Mr. Macfie, £1100 of income had been realised.

Dr. Hill moved the adoption of the report, and that the Assembly give instructions in terms of the committee's recommendation; which was seconded by Mr. Cheyne, and agreed to.

INDIAN CHURCHES.—Dr. Bryce made a brief verbal report on this subject. The committee had addressed a representation to the Marquis of Dalhousie, founded on evidence recently taken before the House of Commons, as to having an increased number of Scotch chaplains in India; and they are now waiting an answer to the communication. Dr. Bryce also mentioned that the Presbyterian bodies at Madras, which, in conformity with an act of last General Assembly, had formed themselves into a Presbytery, wished to have from this Assembly some official recognition.

The report was approved of.

LIBRARY OF THE CHURCH.—Principal Lee verbally reported, that for the want of funds, many valuable works that would have been of use to the library could not be purchased. He thought it desirable, however, that the Committee should be kept up, and mentioned a number of instances in which they had proved of much service. The committee was re-appointed.

SPIRITUAL SUPERINTENDENCE OF STUDENTS.—Dr. Cook, Haddington, gave in a report

stating the amount and character of the spiritual provisions made for students at the different Universities.

Principal Lee moved the approval of the Report, and that the committee be re-appointed to suggest and carry out such means as would conduce to proper pastoral superintendence of the students.

Professor Macpherson seconded the motion, which was approved of.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHURCH.—The Assembly then took up the application of the Rev. James Dickson for re-admission to the Church of Scotland. The applicant stated that he received license from the Church of Scotland, and that previous to 1843 he was appointed assistant minister of Marytown, Presbytery of Brechin, very much on account of his connection with that parish, but having, during a period of mental excitement, and restricted freedom of action, pledged himself in the event of a Disruption—which event he had sincerely hoped to the very last might be averted—to leave the Church of Scotland, he left the Church in 1843, and became minister of Marytown in connection with the Free Church. The petitioner was not satisfied previous to the Disruption with the principles of the Church on the subject of patronage, but any exception he could take to it on that point had been removed by the declaratory Act of 1844, (Lord Aberdeen's Act.) He had all along been conscious that, by his withdrawal from the Established Church, he had placed himself in a false position—a position in which it was easier to become more deeply involved than to get out. He had, in fact, undergone a ten years' conflict between a sense of duty and a desire for consistency, and he had long been reluctant to acknowledge his fault; which, however, he now did. Various documents were produced, testifying to the good character of the petitioner, and to his having demitted his charge at Marytown from ill health in 1849, and to his subsequently having ceased to have any connection with the Free Church.

Principal Lee said it had long been the practice to require some term of probation from ministers from dissenting bodies coming forward and asking admission to this Church.

Dr. Craik moved that the Presbytery be called on to give in their report to the first meeting of the Commission, which should be authorised to decide the case.

Dr. Bisset seconded the motion, and thought they should throw no unreasonable obstruction in the way of receiving Mr. Dickson. He believed he had made a statement which not a few in the Free Church might also make—that he had been outtrapped.

Dr. Craik's motion was agreed to.

The Assembly then took up the application of the Rev. W. Strauchon, late minister at Gibraltar, in connection with the Free Church, on which case the committee reported that it was informally made, and that it must come through the Presbytery

in whose bounds the rev. gentleman resided. The Report was approved of, but Mr. W. Scott Moncrieff and others expressed regret that the application should be hung up for a year, and the rev. gentleman's usefulness interrupted for that period.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES.—Mr. Robertson, Greyfriars, presented the Report from this Committee, which gave some interesting information in reference particularly to the Protestant Central Society of France, one of the most zealous agencies, the report stated, on the Continent, for the evangelisation of the people. It was also mentioned that a great Protestant Conference was expected to be held at Paris in August, at which evangelical ministers from all parts of the world would be present. Reference was made to Italy, and to the dissensions that had arisen in Northern Italy between the Protestant part of the population there. The Vaudois Church was exonerated from the blame of these dissensions, and a tribute paid to the evangelical principles which now, as formerly, characterised that Church.

M. Le Deune, from Belgium, addressed the Assembly in French. He was understood to give some particulars with reference to what was doing among the Roman Catholic population of Belgium, and to ask the assistance of the Assembly to the Christian enterprises in which the Christian Church in Belgium was now engaged.

Dr. Bisset, Mr. McLean (Glasgow), and Dr. Cook, (Haddington), having spoken in favour of the objects contemplated by the Protestant Church in Belgium, the Assembly resolved to recommend them to the favourable consideration of the Church.

MARRIAGE AFFINITY BILL.—Principal Lee thought that at that late hour (half-past eleven o'clock), it was not possible to do justice to a subject which was one of the most interesting at present before the country. With regard to the names of ministers which had been used by the supporters of the bill as favouring their views on the question, he remarked that he had inquired into the cases of all clergymen that were known to him, and he found that most of the statements were misrepresentations.

The rev. Principal concluded by proposing that the Assembly petition Parliament against the measure.

Professor Swinton seconded the motion, which was briefly supported by Drs. Hill and Grant, and unanimously agreed to.

PREPARING AIDS TO DEVOTION.—The Committee on this subject having verbally reported, through Dr. Robertson, that they had not been able to come to any definite conclusion, the Assembly re-appointed the Committee, Professor Campbell to be Convener.

EXTENSION OF THE SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES.—A memorial from the Association for this object, and signed by a considerable number of individuals, was then taken up.

Dr. Cook, Haddington, suggested that if

a Committee were appointed, they should bring up a Report to next General Assembly.

The suggestion of Dr. Cook was agreed to, and a Committee was appointed, with instructions to report to next General Assembly.

COLLECTION FOR THE WIVES AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Dr. Robertson reported that the collection on behalf of this object had amounted to £3313 17s 10d., contributed by 629 churches and chapels, which had been appropriated between the Central Association for the relief of soldiers' wives and families, and the Naval Association for the wives and families of sailors and marines—£1,3000 having been remitted to the former, and £350 to the latter Association. In the event of the committee being re-appointed, he hoped they would receive powers to make another collection through the Church, if it should be found necessary.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, EDINBURGH.—Dr. Robertson, on the part of the Endowment Committee, reported the circumstances under which this church is at present placed. The Assembly remitted the matter back to the committee, with powers.

After a variety of miscellaneous business, the Commission of Assembly was appointed, with the addition of Principal Macfarlan.

THE MODERATOR'S ADDRESS.—The Moderator then addressed the Assembly as follows:—

Right Reverend and Right Honourable,—Our deliberations have been brought to a close. The time is just at hand when the present General Assembly is to cease to be, and it only remains for me, ere I descend from the chair, which I feel I have so inadequately filled, to address to you, as is usual in such cases, a very few parting words.

Fathers and Brethren,—I begin with congratulating you and felicitating myself on the tone, spirit, and temper, with which our proceedings have been conducted. Among so many who think for themselves, it was not to be expected that entire unanimity on the various subjects brought before us would be found to subsist; and, in regard to certain matters, diversities of opinion have been entertained and expressed. But, if there has not been entire unity of mind, there still has been unity of object and unity of heart. We have been knit together in the bonds of peace, and alike tolerant in judgment and gentle in speech. Clamorous contention has not prevailed, and we have exhibited the pleasing spectacle of brethren dwelling together in unity.

Fathers and Brethren—With equal reason and equal gratitude do I rejoice with you in the nature of the business which in this General Assembly we have had to transact. With the exception of one case, (which, however, did not come on the merits before us), we have not had to entertain a charge of immorality against any of our ministers. Neither have we, except in a solitary case too, (and that from a part of the kingdom where the range of selection for patrons is

very limited), been called on to adjudicate on any disputed settlement; and this especially when we consider the many cases of both kinds which came before us in recent Assemblies, cannot but be to us, on both personal and public grounds, a source alike of joy and thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church—to Him whose house holiness becometh for ever, and who sees of the travail of His soul when an affectionate relation is formed between His undershepherd, and their respective flocks. Instead of discussions on matters of a nature so harassing to the soul possessed of piety and imbued with a peaceful spirit, we have had the privilege of devoting much, nay, most of the time allotted to us, to the consideration of those schemes of Christian benevolence, which, to her honour, the Church of our fathers has established—the origin, the object, and the progress of which it is so delightful to him who loves God and man for God's sake to meditate and discourse on, and the interchange of sentiments upon which, between soul and soul, through words proceeding from affectionate lips, is so eminently well calculated to perfect the life of God in the soul of the believer. Blessed be the name of the Lord who has given us the privilege of engaging in such employments, and of such employments may we feel the sanctifying influence many days hence.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable—Let us now look forward together. We cannot conceal it from ourselves that we sky—and that, whether we regard ourselves as a Church of Christ along with other Christian Churches in our land, or in our special character as the Church of Scotland—has a somewhat lowering aspect. We have to contend with Popery—with its twin brother, Puseyism—and with the nascent or fully developed poison of Germanism—and, with what in the present times we are very apt (our minds being occupied with other dangers of a more special and peculiar and, apparently, a more imminent character to overlook, a growing spirit, if not of positive and direct infidelity, yet of carelessness or indifference about religion. This casts a cloud over our prospects as we look forward, and can scarcely fail to excite apprehension in our minds, when we regard ourselves simply in our capacity of a Church of Christ, whose duty it must be to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. But, apart from this, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that, as the Established Church of Scotland, we are placed in circumstances of a very ominous complexion. There is diffused over the land a thirst for change. The old maxims, "stare super antiquas vias," and "let well alone," are to a great extent repudiated, as coming into antagonism with what is called progress—(progress towards what, I would ask?)—or the spirit of the age. By this spirit our legislature is in no small measure influenced, and against all our institutions is it to a greater or less extent directed.

But, Fathers and Brethren, while the circumstances are many that are fitted to excite anxiety or apprehension, there are at the same time not a few calculated to awaken hope and trust, and so to encourage us to go on steadfastly and zealously in the discharge of our duties to the Church and its great Head; and of these latter circumstances it may be proper for me—not to excite within you a feeling of self-complacency, or render you supine, but to stir up your energies by giving you the hope of success—that I should mention some that have been most forcibly presented to my own mind.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable—I have already adverted to the fact—the gratifying fact—that among the various matters brought before this General Assembly, there has not been, with the exception referred to, any charge of immorality preferred against the ministers of our Church; and this circumstance, you, I am sure, will concur with me in regarding as a token for good. It proves, or at least gives us ground to hope, that the unclean have been banished from our camp. It shows that the standard of morals among the pastors of our Church has been raised. We may indulge the pleasing idea that this has resulted from a larger effusion of the restraining grace of God, and of the persuasion that he hath not cast us off, but, on the other hand, is reviving us.

The peaceful settlements of ministers on the presentation of patrons, proving, as it does, that they are exercising their right of nomination with discretion, and that the people are using that right of objection which was lately conferred on them, not in a captious but in a Christian and conscientious spirit, may be regarded, too, as a token for good on the part of Him in whose hands are the hearts of all men, and through the guidance of whose spirit alone either patrons or people can be disposed and enabled to do that which is right and conducive to the good of the Church of His Son.

The harmony by which the proceedings of this General Assembly were, speaking generally, characterized, prevails over the Church to an extent which, I believe, it never before reached. Party spirit is among the things that were. The two parties into which the office-bearers of the Church were formerly divided, have now become, so to speak, bone of each other's bone, and flesh of each other's flesh. We have come to understand each other. We have learned that we do not differ from each other to the extent that aforesaid we apprehended we did. We meet in our judicatories as men who are the same great object in view, and are most frequently at least at one as to the means to be employed for the accomplishment of it. When we differ, we judge each other in the spirit of charity and candour. The wranglings of former days, grating to the ears and wormwood to the soul, are sounds well-nigh unknown; may we not hope that this is the result of the spirit of grace, and may be regarded as an encouraging cir-

cumstance, a token of the favour of God.

Fathers and Brethren—The greater interest that is now taken throughout the Church in our schemes of Christian benevolence, must be looked upon surely as a farther indication of our being regarded with favour by Him who alone can make his people willing in the day of His power, who alone can infuse into us a missionary spirit, and make us pant earnestly for the advancement of His glory. True, it may be, that, in consequence of particular circumstances, the contributions of last year fell somewhat short; but no one who mixes with mankind, can hesitate to believe that, among the adherents of the Church of Scotland there is a growing anxiety as to the salvation of others. This can have come only from God. Let us rejoice and be glad in the proof it furnishes that He is watching over us for good.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable—I might mention many other circumstances indicative, as I think we may, without presumption, say of the favour with which, notwithstanding our unworthiness, God regards us as a Church of his Son.

Fathers and Brethren—Can I close and bid you farewell, without tendering to you from the very depths of my heart, my thanks for the honour you have done me in placing me in the Chair that I am now about to vacate. I felt myself to be both absolutely and comparatively very unworthy of that honour, the highest that can be conferred on a minister of the Church of Scotland. I humbly and gratefully felt, that I owed it much more to your kindly feelings toward me than to any merits, public or private, of my own. I have endeavoured to discharge the duties of my honoured office so as to justify, to some small extent at least, the good opinion which what you had done proved that you entertained of me. With much imperfection I know that I may be charged, but the merit of good intentions I feel that I can claim to myself. For any errors into which I may have fallen I ask your forgiveness; for your indulgence and support of me I offer you my tribute of grateful feeling. To the General Assembly of 1855 I shall ever look back with such pride as may be innocently indulged by one who is but dust and ashes, and in the remembrance of it I hope I shall ever find a motive to impel me not to degrade, but to honour you by my life, alike personal and professional.

Fathers and Brethren,—I feel myself knit to you all by the ties of gratitude and affection. May the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men: to the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all his saints. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of peace and love shall be with you.

The Moderator then dissolved the Assembly in the usual form, and announced that the next General Assembly would be held

on Thursday, the 22nd May, 1856. He then briefly addressed His Grace the Lord High Commissioner, thanking him for the courtesy and hospitality which he had extended to the members.

His Grace having shortly acknowledged the address of the Moderator, dissolved the Assembly in the name of the Sovereign, and appointed the next General Assembly to meet on the day above named.

After prayer and praise, the Moderator pronounced the benediction, and the Assembly broke up about half-past two A. M.

COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

—The stated meeting of the Commission took place yesterday at twelve o'clock noon.

It was unanimously agreed to issue a pastoral letter to the people of Scotland in reference to the present war.

There being no other business before it, the Commission then adjourned.

Presbytery of Edinburgh.

MISSIONARY TO THE PUNJAB.—At a *pro re nata* meeting of this reverend court, held on Wednesday—Dr. Muir presiding—Dr. Macfarlane, Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on foreign Missions, laid on the table a certified extract of the deliverance of the General Assembly authorizing the Presbytery to take on trial, for license and ordination, Mr. Thomas Hunter, who has been selected by the committee as a missionary to the Punjab—the first appointed by the Church of Scotland to labour in that important province of our Indian empire. A committee was instructed to examine Mr. Hunter, and to report to an adjourned meeting to be held on Wednesday next, at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

MUNIFICENT BEQUEST.—We understand that Sir Hugh Munro of Foulis, Bart., has bequeathed his estate of Milton in Ross-shire to found a Free School in Perth, for the education of the Children of tradesmen belonging to the town. The rental of the property, being about £300 per annum, is to be applied to the support of the Institution; and the sum of £1000 is left for the building of the School-house. The School is to be in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and under the superintendence of the Presbytery; and to be visited by the Government Inspector. The Trustees entrusted with its management are the Moderator of the Established Presbytery, the Lord Provost of Perth, and the Sheriff-Substitute at Perth. No school fees are to be charged, and books are to be supplied gratis to the scholars. The branches of education taught are to be such as in the Parish Schools, but without Latin or any of the Classics.

Induction.

The Rev. Thomas Leishman, late minister of Collace, was inducted minister of the parish of Linton, in the county of Roxburgh, on Thursday, 7th instant, and on Sabbath last was

introduced to his new charge by the Rev. Dr. M'Colloch of Greenock, to whom he acted for some time as assistant. The Church was densely crowded, and several parties had come from a distance. The beauty of the woather the romantic nature of the scenery, and historical and legendary associations connected with the locality, contributed to heighten the effect of the occasion. The Rev. Doctor chose for his text 1st Cor. 2d chap. 16th ver., last clause—“We have the mind of Christ.” In the course of a most eloquent and stirring address, characterized by the peculiarly impressive and deep-toned fervour which breathe throughout the Rev. Doctor's pulpit orations, Dr. M'Colloch was listened to with marked attention, which, we trust, will, through God's spirit, leave a lasting impression for good on those who were privileged to listen to his appeal. The privileges and responsibilities of Christians were faithfully depicted, and formed a happy inauguration of the bond which had that day been cemented between the pastor and people, and of the future labours of Mr. Leishman, who, animated by the spiritual zeal of the Rev. Doctor, will, we hope, be long spared to break the bread of life amongst the people of his charge, and to be the honoured instrument of winning many souls to Christ. The Rev. Mr. Leishman delivered an edifying discourse from Acts iv. 20, last clause—“Grant unto thy servants that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”

With reference to the newly inducted minister of Linton, we have much pleasure in quoting the following paragraph from the *Perthshire Constitutional*:—“Parish of Collace.—A very interesting scene took place in this parish on Monday the 4th current. On the previous day, the Rev. Thomas Leishman brought his ministry among the people of Collace to a close, by dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. On the day following, after Divine service by the Rev. Dr. Crombie of Scoone, Mr. Leishman was invited to meet his parishioners, for the last time in the school house, where a beautiful timepiece was conveyed over to him in a suitable speech by Mr. Imrie, who, in the name of the parishioners, presented this token of their respect and affection for one who will long live in their memories as a zealous, kindly, and efficient minister of the Divine word. Mr. Leishman, in accepting this well-merited memorial of his people's love and good will, replied in a short address, characterized by that earnestness and perfect taste which have distinguished all his doings. He has been dividing the bread of life only for three years among the flock from whom he has now separated, and during that brief period he has won the affections of every heart, and found his way successfully to every mind. He is followed by the regret and prayers of the people of Collace into the new sphere of labour upon which he is entering and as Mr. Leishman is possessed, to no ordinary extent, of the valuable power of making and retaining friends, we have no doubt whatever that he will soon form new ties, which, while they will not obliterate the remembrance of old friendships, may at least operate in consoling him for a removal, keenly felt both by himself and his late parishioners.”

We understand the Rev. James Milroy, assistant at Stewarton, Ayrshire, has been unanimously elected (from a list of five candidates) by the male heads of families, communicants, as assistant and successor to the Rev. J. C. Jamieson of Dreghorn, in the Presbytery of Irvine.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia.

(Continued.)

In our last number we had just time and space to announce that the Synod had met. We now proceed to lay before our readers a full account of the business transacted.

Tuesday, July, 3rd, 1855.

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS.

The Rev. John Martin of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, having been duly elected Moderator for the ensuing year, took the chair and said:

BRETHREN,—Eighteen years since I occupied this chair. I feel deeply indebted for the honour you have again conferred upon me, and I trust that your deliberations and proceedings will be conducted with the greatest harmony and unanimity. It is necessary that you express your views clearly and distinctly, and I believe several subjects will be submitted to you requiring much deliberation, owing to the fact that this is only the second meeting of this court since its revival. For ten long years there were only three members of this court, ministers in this Province. I trust we shall never have to pass through the same toils. Blessed be God we were enabled, in his strength to keep together, and it is a great source of consolation to me to see so many beloved brethren now assembled together in a regular church court, for conducting our deliberations in the fear of God and for the good of his Church. We have a great interest committed to our care. Thousands are looking to us for assistance. It will depend much upon us and our deliberations, whether our Church, perhaps for years to come, shall be prosperous and flourishing or fading and decaying. I trust, therefore, we shall have that wisdom which cometh from above which is profitable to assist and direct us in all our proceedings. I have confidence that you are now determined to consult, with diligence and propriety, for the good of the whole Church.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

After an unanimous vote of thanks given to the ex-Moderator, Rev. A. MacGillivray, for his conduct in the chair and for the excellent and suitable sermon delivered by him at the opening of the Synod, and an appropriate acknowledgement of the same, the minutes of last year's meeting were read and sustained and ordered to be taken up seriatim, the first business at next sederunt.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Clerk, the Rev. W. Snodgrass, intimated that he had just received from the Rev. P. MacGregor, Clerk of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, a very important communication, and asked the permission of the Moderator to read it. Leave was granted and the communication being read, it appeared from its contents that a Deputation had been appointed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia to wait upon this court and convey their desire to establish confidence between the two Synods, and also the Synod of the Free Church now assembled in this city, and to secure and promote harmony of feeling and action. An accompanying letter signed by the Rev. P. MacGregor, as Clerk of that Synod, was also read, in which it was solicited that the Deputation might have an interview with this Synod, and requested that

an hour of this evening might be named for the interview to take place, as there was reason to conclude that the business of the other Synod would be brought to a close before to-morrow. This communication was received with much satisfaction by the court, and having reason to suppose that the hour of half-past seven would suit the convenience of the Deputation, that hour was named and the Clerk ordered to despatch without delay, a message to that effect.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The following Committee on overtures was appointed to meet this evening in this place viz: The Moderator and Clerk, as ex officio members. Messrs. Scott, McKay, and Little.

The following Committee on Bills &c. was appointed to meet at the same time and in the same place, viz. Messrs. Herdman, Spron, McLean, McKenzie, and Dr. Avery, Mr. Herdman to be Convener.

The following Committee was appointed to revise Presbytery Records and instructed to meet to-morrow between the first and second diets of Synod, viz: Messrs. McGillivray, Polok, Snodgrass, and Dr. Avery.

Messrs. McGillivray and Herdman were appointed to conduct devotional exercises to-morrow morning immediately after the calling of the roll.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

Presbyteries asked leave to meet which was granted.

The Synod, thereafter adjourned to meet in this place, this evening, at 6 P. M. of which public intimation was made and this sederunt closed with prayer.

Evening Sederunt.

The Synod met, in the evening at the hour and in the place appointed, and was constituted. The minutes of last sederunt were read, corrected, and sustained.

The Minutes of last year's meeting were taken up seriatim. The Clerk and ex-Moderator reported their fulfilment of various instructions entrusted to them.

The Committee appointed to confer with other Presbyterian denominations with a view to the establishment of a united collegiate Institution, had nothing to report, the Convener stating that no favourable occasion had arisen to hold a meeting.

DEPUTATION FROM THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

At the hour of half-past seven, the Deputation from the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, was announced by the officer to be at the door. The Clerk proceeded to the door forthwith, where he was met by the Rev. P. MacGregor, who introduced the Deputation, which consisted of the Rev. Professor Smith, Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. James Bayne, and Mr. Charles Robson, and also presented their Commission. The Clerk then led the Deputation to the Moderator's chair, and the members of the court standing, introduced these gentlemen in order to the Moderator, who expressed himself highly gratified at receiving them. Their commission being read, it was intimated that the Synod were prepared to hear them.

Rev. Professor Smith, who led the Deputation then rose and said:

Moderator and Brethren—We have come here to-night with the view of requesting you to correspond with us in promoting friendly feeling. In the Providence of God we have been cast upon these western shores, and here to cultivate our respective fields. We have done that with but little intercourse,

the same time treating each other with respectful feelings. A long time ago I met with several members of your Church, and then I made an earnest effort to cultivate a closer acquaintance. The hopes of being more successful never left our minds. Your Synod is a branch of the Church of Scotland. As a Scotchman I honour the Church of Scotland. Scotchmen are found in almost every region of the earth, and wherever they have their residence, the Church of Scotland is spoken of with pride. I am an Alumnus of the Glasgow College. I studied there ten or twelve years, and three of these I spent under the amiable and celebrated Dr. Stevenson Macgill. Had I studied one year more, I might have been permitted to take license in the Church of Scotland. These circumstances brought me into close intercourse with the students and ministers of the Church of Scotland. Sir, I have undertaken to lead this deputation with great pleasure. Now, in proportion as I honor the Church of Scotland, and as I speak in complimentary terms of that Church, let me earnestly entreat you to reflect thoughtfully on the object of this deputation. It is true, Moderator, we can serve our Master in our respective spheres of action, but unquestionably with much better effect, if we could co-operate, if in many things we could unite our efforts, as in promoting the interests of education and religion so far as it is practicable. And will you blame me if I presume to cherish the hope, that if we are received with frankness, and this deputation is approved of, it may eventually lead to a close connection, fruitful of good works, a credit to ourselves, and hailed with much satisfaction by the congregations belonging to our respective bodies? Sir, we are Presbyterians, I trust you, like me, are proud of being a Presbyterian, and that you believe firmly that, in carrying out Presbyterian principles, you are most efficiently promoting the interests intrusted to us. If carried out to all its extent, who can tell what an influence co-operation would shed upon the best interests of this Province. O, Moderator, I have long deplored our divisions, or every committee of our Church on this subject, I have formed one. Many years have elapsed since the first effort was made, and new circumstances have arisen. The Province finds itself in a very different position to-day. We have common interests to promote, and there are common enemies rising up, that Presbyterians are best able to meet and repel, but in order to do this successfully, I am of opinion, that it will require our united exertions.

I content myself with making those general observations, and with stating what an interest I feel, what a respect I bear your body, how desirous I am to solicit and obtain your co-operation in everything fitted to promote our general welfare.

Rev. Professor Ross, Moderator, I esteem it no small honour, and I find it to be a very sweet pleasure to be permitted to meet this venerable body, and to express my feelings of the kindness with which we have been received.

Sir, we have heard, from our earliest infancy the venerated names of Knox, and Melville, and Guthrie, and deeply have we to regret that circumstances did occur to break our union with the Church to which these men belonged. We hail every symptom of a prospect of intercourse and kindly sentiment. It is pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. We have the same church polity, the same evangelical doctrines, the same discipline, the same mode of worship. We preach and our people listen to the doctrines of the same Saviour, the same fundamental doctrines of the Calvini-

stic system. We are fighting against a common foe. We are engaged in the same struggle against the Prince of darkness, whether he manifests himself in ignorance and barbarity, or in irreligion and immorality. Why then should we not co-operate? Moderator, we will never entertain the same kindly Christian feelings to each other that we ought to entertain, if we keep at a great distance, and look at each other through the mists of jealousy and rivalry. Things will become worse. But the nearer we see each other, there is not the slightest doubt but we shall value and esteem and love each other more and more. There are many points on which we might co-operate. We can co-operate on general education, and even on religious education. We can surely cooperate in endeavours to suppress the desecration of the Christian Sabbath. Here we have an especial cause to unite our efforts, for one of the distinctive peculiarities of Presbyterianism is respect for the Sabbath-day.

There are many parts of this Province too that contain a vast amount of immorality and vice, and by co-operation, by the principle of division of labour, eternity alone would reveal the amount of good that might be done. We do not in the mean time contemplate the subject of union. That must be the work of time. We see it looming in the distance, but we know for ourselves and our people, it must be a work of time. Our object at present is merely to have friendly co-operation; and we do hope that in thus co-operating we will come soon to esteem and love each other as Christian brethren, and it may be that even in those points on which we are not altogether agreed, we may ultimately find that our differences are not so very great. We will follow the leadings of Providence for future steps. Moderator, let me, through you, entreat earnestly of the Fathers and Brethren, to believe that these are not mere words, but that they proceed from the deep feelings of the heart. "For our friends and brethren's sake, I will now say, peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces." "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord cause his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift upon you the light of his countenance, and give you peace."

Rev. James Bayne, Pictou: Moderator, I state at the outset that I feel at home. I remember that among the first pulpits from which I preached in this country, was that pulpit of St. Matthew's, I have, at my left, one with whom I exchange pulpits frequently. I feel at home.

What, Sir, I would ask, is the common principle upon which one Christian loves another? Is it not likeness to our common Lord? What begets love in the heart of the Christian? It is because Christ's countenance is the most comely object. On the same principle the more closely we see the lineaments of our brethren, the greater will be our mutual love. You have oftentimes seen, when the tide has receded, little pools or shallows, the tiny inhabitants of which are unable to visit each other. They must wait, in a separated state, till the tide has returned upon them and brought them together. So is it with Christians. Let the tide of Divine love visit the churches and what will be the consequence? All Christians will come together. The first question then should be, how shall this tide of love come back? We must ask it as the gift of God. And so the first step is, a union prayer meeting. We must, every man, pray that the influence of Divine love may descend upon our hearts. In our divided state what advant-

age do we give the common enemy? What has kept us hitherto apart cannot longer continue. Some common ground must be found. That common ground may be our common Protestant religion and Presbyterian creed. What would be the Presbyterian cause if we were one? What a noble Educational Institute we might have! What noble efforts for the heathen we might make! We are at present acting a hostile part. We are destroying our own influence. We are guilty of keeping back an influence before which the influences of the man of sin would be effectually repulsed. The Presbyterian army is so divided that by an attack it would be made to disappear before the enemy. But let us appear in one common battalion, and where is the force that would successfully assail us. Remain divided and you remain weak. Unite and be triumphant. We have many objects in common. The people are going forward. The question is making progress. We must be careful to keep pace, that we who are the leaders do not lag. Let me refer to Missionary operations. Some of you are familiar with the success of our Mission in the Hebridean group. No one mission has with the same limited amount of expenditure ever returned the same rich harvest. Our missionary has given a common invitation to Presbyterians. Is not this an excellent object in which we might co-operate. I conclude by expressing the happiness I have in addressing you, and the hope that this will not be the last time we shall meet as we have met to-night.

Mr. Charles Robson, Elder Moderator, I firmly and deeply entertain the sentiments just uttered. I esteem it an honor to be one of this deputation. The sentiments of friendship and confidence are held towards you by the vast majority of our people. We look with delight on the noble characteristics of the Church of Scotland, and we believe that you look with pleasure on the resemblance between our Church and yours. I can speak for our elders, and I know that I speak truthfully when I say that they cherish feelings of regard for this Church, and are desirous that we should be drawn together by bonds of attachment. Mr. Robson made many interesting and encouraging statements in his speech, and concluded by observing that brethren of the same Church often differ and differ warmly, but said he, how seldom do they quarrel. It is because they are one. And I do feel that were our differences discussed by men, members of the same Church there would be far less quarrelling than there now is.

The members of the deputation having addressed the Synod, they were followed immediately after by Rev. John Scott, who said, Moderator, I have always been in favor of union among Presbyterians. It is true that the old land marks must yet continue for some time. There may still be the Free Church of Nova Scotia, the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia. But there are many things in which we might co-operate. I do not see why, after the meeting of our Synods, there should not be a conference or convention that would take up the question of missions, of education, and many others which we would all like to discuss. I always regret that we have not a part in the Foreign mission that has been carried on with such success by my brethren. If a committee is appointed, I hope that Committee will consider whether there might not be a convention. I am sure this would finally issue in a still closer union.

Rev. A. W. Herdman, Moderator, I rise not

because I feel myself worthy, much less because I intend to anticipate the remarks of my brethren, but because my friend and brother, Mr. Bayne has alluded to me. When I was cast upon these shores, and saw but one brother minister of our Church, I took counsel of God, and, observing many ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, I did call upon the several ministers that occasion threw in my way, and was welcomed by one and all. We reciprocated and the best feelings were between us. We exchanged on the Sabbath on a Christian ground. I rejoice to have lived to see the day when the matter of union has assumed a palpable footing. Sir, what is the prayer of our Lord, three, aye five times uttered in that one Chapter, the 17th of John's Gospel, that all his disciples may be one? What is that beautiful psalm, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" And what is the allusion, "As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion." Hermon and Zion were thirty miles apart. The dew that descended upon Hermon, descended also upon Zion, Zion envied not Hermon, Hermon envied not Zion. May I not say this is true of our churches. When the blessing in answer to many prayers will come upon our body to revive it, will it not come equally upon the other body. Moderator, we must allow that a Christian stranger looking at the matter and seeing the two bodies so far apart, will and must say, when his heart is drawn out to pray, "God revive thy work." The Christian Minister looks at the field of his brother minister, and he sees that minister cry for rain. Does not the sentiment arise that not only may, his own body be blessed, but that of his brother minister also? I say you dare not shut out the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, from your prayers. There can be nothing out of place in co-operating in prayer meetings, and missions, provided only the interests and principles of each be not compromised. I have not to be told that because I belong to one regiment, therefore, I must not love the common army. Did the fact of the French lending the British 10,000 overcoats make us feel less that we belonged to Great Britain. So we may co-operate and yet remain, holding those portions of truth we regard as essential to our distinctiveness, and holding them in the true spirit of charity, forbearance, and love. I look upon present advantages from this step whatever others may follow. Is the fact of ministers loving one another. Is that no advantage? Surely the language of the Psalmist is appropriate. Is the fact of our people feeding together as they ought, is that nothing? Is it nothing to go home to our flocks and tell them what has taken place this night? I conclude with saying, that not alone the Free Church, not alone the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, not alone the Church of Scotland is to get the credit on this occasion, but the Church of Christ.

Dr. Avery.—Moderator, as a man of very few words, I simply say how much I am gratified with this evening's occurrence. I have always had a warm attachment to the different bodies of Presbyterians. I have always spoken of the disadvantage of their being separate and of the advantage that would result from their being united. I shall do all in my power to promote that union.

Rev. W. Snodgrass said, this was such an occurrence as he had longed and prayed for. He could say that he had not only been desirous of co-operation with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, but to the utmost of

his ability, he had already co-operated. He had made it his duty to show that he was biassed by no sectarianism, either with reference to the Free Church or the Church whose deputation is now present. He held that in doing so he had made no sacrifice of principle, no, not even an iota of principle, on the contrary he had the satisfaction of feeling that a higher Christian principle than that which kept Presbyterians divided, was by such conduct maintained and upheld. Ever since he had stepped on this Province, he had lamented the divided state in which Presbyterians are situated and still more the sad and melancholy fruits of their divisions. Hoping that this occurrence was but the precursor of a firm and satisfactory union, he hailed the presence of the deputation and the addresses to which they had listened, as a new epoch in the history of Presbyterianism in these Provinces. He believed the whole subject was now regularly before the court, by the authenticated extracts from the Synod Records of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, which had that evening been read, and by the statements which had just been made by the Deputation, explanatory of his brotherly intercourse desired in the meantime by that church, and in support of it, and, as he had reason to know, from a letter accompanying these extracts, that the time at which the proceedings of the other Synod would be brought to a close, would not allow of their sending a Deputation to meet that court, he would move the following resolution, which, while it would bring the matter to a point, would also meet, he hoped, the views and wishes of their brethren of the deputation, as well as express the sentiments entertained, he ventured to say, by every member of this court; he then read and submitted a resolution as follows. "That this Synod, heartily concurring in the strong desire expressed by the Rev. the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in the extract minutes communicated by order of said Synod to this court, and by the sentiments now uttered in the addresses of the members of the deputation, to whom the members of this court have been privileged to listen, hereby declare themselves ready to cooperate in the adoption of such steps, as to them many seem proper, for the establishing of mutual confidence between the Synods and for the securing and promoting of harmonious feeling and action, appoint a committee to confer with any committee that may be appointed by the other Synod, for the attainment of these objects, and instruct the clerk to send a copy of this resolution, to the clerk of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at his earliest convenience."

Mr. Snodgrass concluded by saying that if this resolution passed it would give him the greatest pleasure to record it in their minutes. Perhaps for many years to come, perhaps when they were gone, others would point with gratitude to the fact that this resolution is to be found in the records of the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia. Perhaps like the solitary footprint, which the tide has not reached or effaced, guiding the wanderer on the almost pathless shore it would encourage and cheer many a spirit.

Rev. A. Mackay—Moderator I cordially second the motion. I express the greatest satisfaction at the sentiments uttered by the members of the deputation who have visited our Court. I respect them for the manner in which they have expressed themselves so highly in reference to our Church at home. The Church, which has met us has been before our Church, planted itself here, opposed error, and ad-

vanced the interests of truth. We can respect them on various grounds. We may also initiate them. I second the motion.

Rev. A. Pollock.—Moderator, I think the course proposed by Mr. Snodgrass is more graceful and pleasing than any other. I think it will be best that the members of the deputation go away in possession of this resolution. The resolution seems to embody the feelings expressed by the last gentleman who spoke. It is a matter of singular gratification to me to witness this scene, I will always recur to this as something pleasing, and it is a high privilege that we have been favored to meet together at this time. Many things have been said respectfully of the Church of Scotland. We must be allowed to say that we also respect them. They were first on this field, and first occupied the waste places supplying spiritual destitution, and applying their admirable machinery to the noble purpose of preaching the Gospel to destitute souls. I must be allowed further to state that as an individual, I must claim for myself the privilege of having acted out the sentiments expressed in the resolution. I was not more than a fortnight in New Glasgow when one of their ministers called and asked me to co-operate in a union prayer meeting. That, the Presbyterian ministers of New Glasgow, with one exception, have done, since I went there. We have met and prayed together and addressed the same people. We have had much satisfaction in this. It has been pleasing to the spirit, and tending to many pleasing remembrances.

Rev. A. MacGillivray—Moderator, if we had not received this deputation as we have done, we would not have acted as Christians. If we had not received as we have done those who have come with an offer of peace, presenting an opportunity of coming nearer and acting more closely on a friendly footing, we would not have acted as Christians. Mr. Bayne has referred to their Foreign Mission. Sir, a report of that Mission brought me to my knees and I have prayed that God would bless that Church. And I do believe that God has showered back his blessings upon them again. There is not a sentiment in the resolution that I would not second. I wish that Committees would be appointed by both Synods, that steps may be taken even before the separation of the Synods.

Rev. A. McLean, Moderator, the scene we have witnessed we were accustomed to hear of as something that would one day or other take place. I did not expect when I came here to witness this scene and my feelings are such that I cannot express them. A great step has been taken. It strikes us as something new, and why? It is not extraordinary. It is just what should always be the case. Let the most be made of our differences, they form no ground whatever for anything to keep us apart, for any lessening of that affection, which as followers of the same Master we are bound to entertain towards each other. Looking upon this as a great step I think we should not part without entreating the blessing of God upon what we have seen and heard.

Rev. Geo. W. Sprott.—Moderator, while I cordially support the motion, I feel that it is only the speedy rising of the other Synod that should prevent us from appointing a deputation to meet them. I trust this may be remedied another year, by our meeting at the same time, which at the conclusion of our Synod meetings, we can arrange. With regard to the question of unity, we cannot expect the world to be converted, until the Church is one. Our Saviour says, "that they all may be one, and

thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Here, as a distinct consequence of union, is placed the conversion of the world. This is not mere unity of spirit. It must be a unity of co-operation, and ultimately of incorporation. I do not think that every body of men is bound to put into their creed every sentiment which they believe. The Rev. Gentleman concluded by adverting to and condemning, the two extremes—the one, that of sinking into unity upon any grounds and upon any terms, the other, that of stretching out to an undue and unnecessary length, the articles of belief which compose the distinctive creeds of churches.

The Moderator, asked if any other member was disposed to express his views on the resolution, when no one rising, he briefly stated his own approbation, and having put the motion to the court, it was carried unanimously. The members of the Deputation then returned thanks for the cordial and satisfactory manner in which they had been received. Acting upon the happy suggestion of Mr. McLean, the Moderator then called upon Mr. Scott to pray. After an appropriate prayer the Deputation withdrew. The occurrence was felt by all present to be of the most solemn and impressive description—a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—and we doubt not that many prayers were that night offered, and that many prayers will yet ascend to the God of all grace, that this great initiative step may soon be consummated in a grand and glorious union of all Presbyterians.

The Synod then adjourned to meet in this place to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, of which public intimation was made and this sederunt closed with prayer.

Wednesday, 4th July, 1855.

MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Synod met this morning according to adjournment and was constituted. The roll was called; Sederunt as before. Messrs. McGillivray and Herdman, conducted the devotional exercises. Messrs. McLean and McKay were appointed to do the same to-morrow morning. The minutes of last meeting were read and, being corrected, were sustained.

COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Clerk called attention to the circumstance that while, by the resolution he had moved, last evening, it had been agreed to appoint a committee to confer with any committee appointed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, for the purposes stated in the resolution, a committee had not yet been named. A committee was then appointed consisting of the Moderator, Messrs. Scott, McGillivray, Pollok, and Dr. Avery. Mr. Scott to be Convener.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. Spratt asked leave, at this stage of the proceedings, to move the appointment of a committee to draft an address to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of N. S. Leave was granted and the following committee appointed, viz: The Moderator, Messrs. Scott, Spratt, and Pollok.

MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING OF SYNOD.

The consideration of the minutes of last year's meeting was then resumed.

Mr. Spratt, Clerk of the Presbytery of Halifax, gave a verbal report on certain Church

property within the bounds of the Presbytery, which report consisted chiefly of the result of inquiries with reference to St. James' Church, Dartmouth, and of proceedings taken for the recovery of Presbytery records which, since 1843, had been in the hands of the Free Church Presbytery. The Synod approved of the report. The Presbytery were commended for their diligence, and the instructions of last year were repeated.

There was no report from the Presbytery of Pictou, Mr. Snodgrass reported that St. John's Church, Belfast, P. E. Island, is incorporated, and the Church at Georgetown, registered, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

The committee appointed, last year, to draw up an account of the state of the church in these Provinces, and to found an appeal thereon to licentiates in Scotland, reported that they had obeyed their instructions without delay, and that the manner in which they had discharged the duty, intrusted to them was known to all the members of Synod. The Synod approved of what had been done and commended the committee for their diligence. Since the meeting of last year one licentiate, the Rev. George Harper, was sent out by the Colonial Committee, and was received as a probationer, successively, within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Halifax and Pictou. He had also visited P. E. Island, and in the various localities where he had served as a Missionary, he had laboured with much acceptance and ability.

The arrival of Mr. Harper was hailed as a fresh token of the sympathy entertained by the Church at home for the Church in these Provinces, and the hope is thereby rekindled that the Colonial Committee may soon have at their disposal many more young men, willing to cross the Atlantic and minister to their countrymen here in holy times.

Mr. Snodgrass stated for himself and Mr. Purdie that they had been unable to fulfil the appointment laid upon them to correspond with the Synod of New Brunswick, as that court had met at the same time with this Synod. There being nothing in the minutes of last year's meeting occasioning further remark or requiring further procedure to be taken.

The report of the Committee on Overtures was then called for. Mr. Snodgrass, as Clerk of the Committee reported that they had met according to instructions, and that the following overtures having been submitted, they had agreed to comply with the petitions for their transmission:

1. Overture on Synod Fund
 2. " Monthly Record
 3. " { Appeal to Students of Divinity in Scotland
 4. " { Statistics
 5. " { More frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper.
 6. " Vacancies.
- Submitted by the Rev. W. Snodgrass
7. Overture on the appointment of a Superintendent of Missions.
 8. " on Gaelic Deputations from the Church in Scotland.
- Submitted by the Rev. George W. Spratt.
9. Overture on Presbyterial Visitations.
 10. " on Vacancies.
- Submitted by Rev. A. McKay.

The report having been received, the committee asked leave to sit again, which was granted. The Synod agreed to consider and dispose of these overtures, as much as possible, in the order above stated.

THE COMMITTEE ON BILLS, &c.

Reported that papers relating to a case of Reference from P. E. Island had been submitted, accompanied with a petition from Rev. A. Pollok the Moderator of the last meeting of Presbytery held there, in the name and by the appointment of said meeting, praying that they might be transmitted to the Synod. The Committee agreed to comply with the prayer of the petition. The report being received, the Synod agreed to take up the Reference after the overtures are disposed of.

OVERTURE ON SYNOD FUND.

This overture was introduced and supported by the Clerk. He shewed the necessity there exists for the immediate institution of such a Fund, and pointed out the objects to which, in the mean time, it ought to extend. The efficiency of Synod meetings depended in some measure upon this Fund. Many members had to travel a great distance, and that incurred an expense, which ministers at least might sometimes have the greatest difficulty in meeting. A minister must feel it to be one of the most painful and annoying of excuses for non-attendance at this court, that he could not afford the expense of travelling, and the Synod could not blame him for absenting himself for this reason. It was most desirable he said that all ministers should be present at the meetings of Synod, and he called upon the court, therefore, to assent to the passing of a measure, which would remove, he hoped, every barrier or excuse on the score of expenses. It was also desirable, they would allow, that sessions should be represented at this court by an elder as well as by a minister, and many an elder might not be in a position to attend with comfort at his own expense. Besides, he maintained, it is the duty of the Church generally, for whose benefit Synodical meetings are held, to supply the means sought by the institution of this Fund. And he believed their congregations, would for the most part rejoice in the opportunity that would now be given of contributing for this object. He would move as follows:—The Synod having heard the overture, approve of the same: appoint an annual collection to be made in all the churches and stations within the bounds of the Synod, which collection shall go to the formation and maintenance of a Fund to be called, the Synod Fund, direct the said collection to be made, after intimation and explanation, on some sabbath, previous to the sixth before the meeting of Synod, in each year: declare the object for which this fund shall be available to be, to defray the expenses incurred by meetings of Synod, by the carrying out of Synodical procedure, and by the attendance of members; and appoint Dr. Avery, to be Treasurer of this fund, to whom a return of collections is required to be made, each year, before the meeting of Synod.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Scott, and members having stated their concurrence, it passed unanimously.

Overture on "The Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, and the adjoining Provinces." This overture was introduced and supported by the clerk, who said it was with the greatest delight he had received and read the Prospectus of this Periodical, when it was issued towards the close of last year. It had now been before them, and in the hands of many of the people, in successive numbers for several months, and he might now speak with confidence of its merits and usefulness. It supplied a want which all felt to exist. It furnished from time to time, interest-

ing and important information relative to the Church at home and in the colonies, for which the people were grateful, and which ministers must be delighted to have in circulation. Already it had greatly strengthened their hands and advanced their cause. The people could speak on matters of which before they knew little or nothing. It had awakened new feelings of interest and attachment. It enabled them, to some extent, to meet the unfounded charges of weakness and inefficiency, to see how false were the rash predictions, put forth, so busily by the enemies of the Church a few years ago. He was sure there exists but one feeling of gratitude to the gentlemen in Halifax, who had so cheerfully consented to undertake the pecuniary responsibility attending its publication, but one feeling of approbation of the excellent and laborious services rendered by the editors, but one feeling of duty on the part of members of this court with reference to its more extensive circulation and to their more combined support of it. The manner in which the printing had been executed, and the form in which it appeared were also in the highest degree creditable. He would move the following resolutions:

1. That the thanks of the Synod be tendered, and they are hereby unanimously tendered to those gentlemen in Halifax, who have so kindly and cheerfully stepped forward, and taken upon themselves the pecuniary responsibilities involved in the originating and maintaining of the Monthly Record for the current year.

2. That the thanks of the Synod be tendered to Messrs. Martin and Sprout, the Editors of the Monthly Record, for their excellent and laborious services.

3. That this Synod recognize and declare "The Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, and the adjoining Provinces," to be the organ of the Church of Scotland in the Provinces under their ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

4. That the Synod strongly urges the members of this court to give all diligence, in communicating original articles and matters of interesting intelligence, and recommend the same duty to such of the laity as can possibly fulfil it.

5. The Synod is pledged, individually and collectively to increase the circulation of the Monthly Record. These resolutions were seconded by Mr. MacGillivray, who spoke of the extent to which it was circulated in his congregation, of the good it had effected during the short period of its existence, and of the interest with which the people looked for each succeeding number. Almost every member spoke in similar terms, several of them giving interesting statements connected with its brief history, and a variety of suggestions as to the means which might be adopted to increase its circulation. It was plainly implied in all that was said that the court should not rest satisfied with the bare point of success which had been reached, but that a higher and a higher degree of success should be aimed at.

The resolutions were put and passed unanimously. The clerk was instructed to communicate the action taken in this matter to the Committee of management. The Moderator, on motion, left the chair, when the ex-Moderator, in the name and by the order of the court, tendered to Messrs. Martin and Sprout, the vote of thanks passed in terms of the second resolution, which those gentlemen suitably acknowledged. The Moderator having resumed his seat, the Synod adjourned to meet in this place this evening at six o'clock, of which

public intimation was made and that sederunt closed with prayer.

Evening Sederunt.

The Synod met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt as before. The minutes of last sederunt were read, and after some remarks sustained.

APPEAL TO STUDENTS OF DIVINITY IN SCOTLAND.

The overture on this subject, praying the Synod to take steps to furnish the members of the Missionary Societies in connection with the different Universities in Scotland, with information on the spiritual destitution prevailing within the bounds of the Synod, was introduced and supported by the clerk. He said that last year the Synod had appealed to licentiates of the Church in Scotland, he would ask them to go a step further back this year and appeal to the students of divinity in connection with the Church. The most of his brethren were aware that in each University there is a Missionary Society, the members of which had themselves open to the reception of such information as he would desire to send them. And were this communicated to them before they had formed any particular ties with the home country, were a proper representation of the many vacancies in these Provinces placed in their hands before they had connected themselves with congregations in Scotland, he could not but hope that their attention would be directed to the field here in such a way as to lead to the services of some of them being ultimately secured, under the auspices of the Colonial Committee. He would, therefore, move the appointment of a committee to draw up an appeal of the nature he had referred to, and to despatch a copy, at whatever time might appear to the committee the most suitable, to be laid before each of the University Missionary Societies in connection with the Church. This motion being seconded by Dr. Avery, and having passed unanimously; the Synod appointed a committee, in terms thereof, consisting of the Moderator, Messrs. MacGillivray, Pollock, McLean, and MacKay.

OVERTURE ON STATISTICS.

This was an overture introduced by Mr. Snodgrass, praying the Synod to take steps to procure from year to year, statistics in regard both of temporal and spiritual matters, connected with the several churches, congregations, and stations within their bounds. He spoke at some length on the necessity and the advantage of statistics furnished annually to this court. It is by a suitable collection of these, that a history of the Church may be best obtained and preserved, that the state of religion in different localities may be known, that the rise and progress of congregations may be traced; that grounds for reasonable deliberation and action by the superior courts may be furnished. Congregations may be expected to supply what is wanting in their organization, to correct what is wrong. Those that are strong will be taught in what respects they may sympathize with, and assist them that are weak. A salutary influence will be diffused throughout the Church, existing organizations will become more perfect, new schemes will be called into operation, old schemes will become more prosperous. The labours of ministers will be better directed, the liberality and zeal of the people will flow in more appropriate channels. Mr. Snodgrass was not prepared to say what course he would recommend the Synod to adopt, but solicited members to express their views. An interesting

and protracted discussion ensued. At length Mr. Sprout moved, that the Synod approve of the overture, and appoint the Moderator, Messrs. Scott, Pollock, and MacKenzie,—Mr. Pollock to be Convener,—a committee to prepare schedules, and suggest such other means as to them may seem advisable for the attainment of this object. The committee to submit the same to this meeting of Synod, at a subsequent sederunt. This motion was seconded by Dr. Avery, and passed unanimously.

OVERTURE ON GAELIC DEPUTATIONS.

At the request of the clerk the court consented to depart a little from the order of business in reference to the overture, and proceeded to the consideration of an overture on the above subject introduced and supported by Mr. Sprout. He explained the object of the overture to be to meet, temporarily, the destitution of religious ordinances prevailing in a great and lamentable extent among the Gaelic population within the bounds of the Synod. Many congregations had long been without ministers and were still vacant. Their two or three Gaelic ministers gave services, each of them, to more than one congregation, and even under this arrangement, there were others, who could be visited and ministered to, but very seldom indeed. It became a matter of great concern to the Church, what should be done in the meantime. These congregations could not be overlooked without serious harm to the Mission of the Church and the cause of religion. He referred to the good which had been effected by previous deputations even during their very brief sojourn in these Provinces, and he thought that a Gaelic Deputation or Deputations sent out by the Colonial Committee and labouring for a few months under the direction of the church courts would be the means of accomplishing much in behalf of the church. Their movements could be better directed now than formerly, they could minister on successive Sabbaths to the same congregation. He believed there could easily be found, two or three ordained Gaelic clergymen in Scotland, who would most willingly entrust their charges for a few months to the Presbyteries, and come here under the auspices of the Colonial Committee. As to the expense that would be very much less than any previous Deputation, for, labouring in a more limited sphere their travelling expenses would come to very little. Once in the country, he was sure, the people would relieve them of their charges. And, he doubted not, their expense in coming to the country, would be most cheerfully refunded to the Colonial Committee. The plan at all events was worthy of a trial. He would propose, that a committee consisting of Messrs. Herdman, Sprout, McLean, and MacKenzie, be appointed to prepare an appeal to the Colonial Committee on the subject of the overture, the committee to submit their appeal for the approval of the Synod at a subsequent sederunt.

Mr. Snodgrass, thought the plan just proposed was most admirable and well-timed, and could not but feel it had in itself the very important element of success. He seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

OVERTURE ON VACANCIES.

This overture was introduced and brief supported by the clerk. The object of it, he said, was simply this—to furnish without delay a complete list of the vacancies within the bounds of the Synod for the guidance and direction of applicants to the Colonial Committee. He had reason to know that such a list had been inquired for but could not be given, and missionaries applying for com-

sions to this country must in consequence have very unsatisfactory data to proceed upon in the direction of their movements. The lists at present before the public were of the most imperfect and inadequate kind. He would move as follows: that Presbyteries be enjoined, and they are hereby enjoined, to send through their clerks to the clerk of Synod, without delay, a complete list of the names of places, within their respective bounds, where a church, congregation, or preaching station, is located in connection with this Synod, stating whether these places are supplied with a minister or are vacant, and giving the names of the ministers opposite the charges which they hold; and that the clerk be ordered to transmit an arranged list of the same to the publishers of Oliver and Boyd's Almanac, of Wilson's Clerical Almanac, and to the Editor of the Home and Foreign Missionary Record of this church. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pollock, who farther suggested that a map of these Provinces should be sent to the office of the Colonial Committee, where it might be for inspection and reference.

The Synod then adjourned to meet in this place to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, of which public intimation was made and this sederunt closed with prayer.

To be Concluded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Christianity an Aggressive system.

Of all religious Christianity is that, and that alone, which will never let the world slumber. No form of it is so corrupt as not to have internal energy enough to send forth its emissaries to the ends of the earth; men who will endure all privations and bear all perils to persuade all nations to embrace it. This among many other peculiarities which discriminate Christianity from other religions, is one of the most striking, and ought to excite deep reflection. No other religious system manifests or ever has manifested, this remarkable, this uniform tendency. How would all Europe be astonished at the appearance of Mohometan Mooallahs, or Hindoo Brahmins in London and Paris sent to persuade us to embrace their religions. Not only have heathen religions never done this but the religion which cradled Christianity itself rather restrained than extended its benefits. Judaism received, but hardly welcomed proselytes.—Christianity, on the other hand; addresses all kindreds, peoples, nations, and tongues; and has, in these our days, especially, lifted up its voice in every clime, and is speaking the dialect of nearly every tribe of men. Nothing is more certain than that man will have some religion, and if none other makes conquests, and as is too plain Deism neither will nor can, it is tolerably certain that Christianity, whether true or false, is likely to reign.

And let us not forget what Christianity is now doing; it has (as just said) the power to do what other religion does, and what no form of Deism ever attempts to do; it has the power to render those who believe in it intensely anxious to make it triumphant: it sends its agents to the uttermost parts of the earth, and supports them there.—And, by doing so, it has reclaimed barbarous tribes to civilization, abolished their idolatry, fixed their language, and given them the elements of all arts, literature, and civilization, in giving them the Bible; for in the very process of giving that, it gives these also. Only the other day, many of us saw, from the remotest Isles of Polynesia a

Samoa newspaper, printed entirely by a race who only a few years ago, was a set of naked savages, addicted to cannibalism, infanticide, and without the elements of a written language. The paper was printed in a style which (as an English printer truly said) would do no discredit to an English printing office. Not only so, but the same Christianity has the power of immediately inspiring those who receive it again to aid in its further diffusion, and to hand on the bright torch which has kindled the hallowed fire on their own hearths and altars. Only last year, I observed that nearly a tenth of the large revenues of one of our missionary societies was derived from the converts it had made,—from new Zealanders, and Tahitians, and Hottentots, and Bechuanas: and other societies were aided from similar sources in a similar proportion! These simple facts are worth a thousand platform speeches. Let our Deistical magicians do the like by their enchantments. No, they can talk and write (as Harrington says) "book-revelation," and dreams of human generation, and that is all. Till Deism does something more, Christianity has not much to fear from it.—*Defence of Eclipse of Path.*

Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The sale of Uncle Tom's Cabin is the most marvellous literary phenomenon that the world has witnessed. Although the story was not completed until the March of 1852, having been written and printed from week to week as a sort of feuilleton in a Washington newspaper called the *National Era*, by the end of November, 1852, 150,000 copies had been sold in America—the first London edition being published furnished one house 10,000 copies per day for about four weeks, 1000 persons being employed in the labour of their preparation! Before 1852 had closed more than 1,000,000 copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin had been sold in England! probably, say the *Edinburgh Review*, ten times as many as have been sold of any other work except the Bible and Prayer Book. In France it appears that one publisher alone has issued no less than five different editions of the work in different forms. While, wonderful to tell, before the end of that memorable year of 1852—the year of Uncle Tom's Cabin, as it might be called, just as we call 1851 the year of the Great Exhibition, or that of 1848 the year of the February Revolution—Mrs Stowe's book has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Danish, Swedish, Dutch, Flemish, German, Polish, and Magyar: there being, moreover, among these as many as two different Dutch, and twelve different German translations. A marvellous success indeed! one that may well be designated the most extraordinary of literary phenomena.

Romish Testimony to the English Bible.

Who will not say that the uncommon beauty and marvellous English of the Protestant Bible is not one of the great strongholds of heresy in this country? It lives on the ear like a music that can never be forgotten, like the sound of the church bell, which the convert hardly knows how he can forego. Its felicities often seem to be almost things rather than mere words. It is part of the national mind, and the anchor of national seriousness. The memory of the dead passes into it. The potent traditions of childhood are stereotyped in its verses. The power of all the gifts and trials of a man is hidden beneath its words.

It is the representative of his best moments, and all that there has been about him of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good, speaks to him for ever out of the English Bible. It is his sacred thing, which doubt has never dimmed, and controversy never soiled. In the length and breadth of the land there is not a Protestant with one spark of righteousness about him whose spiritual biography is not in his Saxon Bible.—*Dublin Roman Catholic Review.*

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

AUGUST, 1855.

Meeting of Synod.

Our readers, we doubt not will peruse with much interest the proceedings of our highest ecclesiastical court of which we gave the opening in our last number. We regret that we have not been able, on account of our limited space, to complete this subject in this number, but the remainder will be forthcoming in due time.

The Meeting of our Synod was in all respects most pleasing, and we believe its members all returned to their homes delighted and thankful that they had enjoyed so much pleasant christian intercourse, and that they had been able to carry through so many wise and judicious measures. On account of the long ministerial destitution that has prevailed in many quarters of our church, and the want of backing and encouragement, the most sanguine temperaments are sometimes subject to lowness of spirits—but before the Synod's close—if there was anything of this at the beginning it had completely evaporated, and all was hope, life and tone. The proceedings were characterized throughout by order, harmony, and brotherly and christian feeling. We will not now notice the different measures that were passed, as they will be recorded in the account of the proceedings, but from time to time there are several of them to which we hope to call special attention.

Soon after the Synod opened it was waited upon by a deputation from the Synod of the Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia—who delivered admirable addresses—expressing their respect for the church of Scotland, and their desire for more intercourse and co-operation. Their reception, we trust, was gratifying to them, as nothing was wanting on our part to make it so. They were treated as christian ministers and as gentlemen, and welcomed with cordiality, respect, and affection. At a later sederunt the hearts of all our members were made glad by the arrival of the deputation from Canada, consisting of Mr. McKid, of Goderich, Dr. Mathieson, of Montreal, and W. Edmonstone, Esqr. All felt deeply grateful to the church of Scotland there, for having sent them to visit us—and to them for having executed their commission. They

were cordially invited to take their seats as members of the court—and to the end they assisted in its deliberations.

Our Synod took up most heartily the hint they threw out with reference to a closer union of the branches of the Church of Scotland, in North America, with the view of leading ultimately to the formation of a general Assembly, and passed resolutions to that effect. There seemed to be, but one opinion upon this subject—the sooner it can be consummated the better.

Altogether we have great reason to be thankful to God for the spirit that characterised the meetings of the Synod, and for the measures that received its sanction.

All that is wanting now—is for ministers and people to vie with each other in carrying these measures into effect, and with God's blessing our church shall flourish. Ministers cannot do everything; they cannot do much if unsupported by the people. We hope therefore that all lukewarmness and indifference will vanish away, and that all the members of the church will feel their responsibilities and throw themselves into the good cause.

Public Meeting in St. Matthew's, Halifax.

A public meeting of the friends of the church of Scotland was held in this church, on the Monday evening after the Synod, to welcome the deputation from Canada, and to hear addresses from them as to the state of the church in that province; as also from some of the members of our Provincial Synod.

The chair was taken at half-past 7, by the Hon. James McNab, Receiver General, who was supported on the platform by the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, Rev. Messrs. McKid, Martin, Pollock, McKay, Sprott, the Hon. Wm. Young, Hon. Alex. Keith, Dr. Avery, and Wm. Fairbanks, Esq.

The meeting was opened with prayer and praise by the Rev. A. McKay.

The Chairman having then stated the object of the meeting, called upon the Rev. J. Martin, to move the 1st resolution which was to the following effect.

"That this meeting heartily appreciate the christian sympathy of the Synod of the church in Canada, in sending a deputation to visit these lower colonies, and cordially welcome the deputation." This was seconded in an eloquent speech, by the Hon. Wm. Young, Attorney General, and unanimously carried. Most interesting addresses were then delivered by the Rev. A. McKid, Moderator of the church in Canada, and the Rev. Dr. Mathieson. Whereupon it was moved by the Rev. W. Snodgrass, of St. James, Charlottetown, and seconded by W. Fairbanks, Esq. "That this meeting having heard the statements of the deputation from Canada rejoice in the prospects of the church in that province, and agree with

their fellow-churchmen, there in desiring a closer union of the church of Scotland, in these North American Provinces." This motion was also carried unanimously. It was then moved by the Rev. A. Pollock, of St. Andrew's church, New Glasgow, seconded by the Rev. G. W. Sprott, of Halifax, and unanimously resolved, "That this meeting desire to express their gratitude to God, for his goodness to the parent church, and her branches since the lamentable secession of 1843."

A vote of thanks to the chairman was then moved by the Hon. A. Keith, seconded by Dr. Avery, and carried by acclamation. After which the meeting having sung the doxology was dissolved by the Apostolic benediction.

P. S. A full account of this meeting will be given in next No.

We feel deeply indebted to the Synod of Nova Scotia for the very favourable, we might almost say flattering notice which they have taken at their late meeting of our monthly periodical, and we have no doubt that such support will tend not a little both to extend its circulation and increase its usefulness.

Commenced by the friends of the Church in this city, from the best intentions, as a means of diffusing useful intelligence and with a view to supply a want which was generally felt to exist, it has gradually found its way into our congregations and throughout the community, and if conducted with suitable ability and discretion, bids fair to become an acceptable visitant in many a family and to convey much needed and welcome intelligence to the friends and well wishers of the Church of Scotland throughout the length and breadth of the Provinces.

It cannot for a moment be doubted that the press has become in modern times and in all enlightened nations enjoying constitutional governments, one of the most powerful and influential engines for directing and regulating public opinion, that has ever been devised. Ever active and vigilant under the management of persons of the most varied talents, tastes and principles, transmitting its intelligence through the aid of railroads and the electric telegraph, with wonderful, with lightning rapidity, its influence for good or for evil, when its energies are in full force, has become incalculable, and almost irresistible. The ablest statesmen and the most powerful monarchs, have been often compelled to bow to its authority, and long established dynasties and absolute despotisms, have trembled and fallen under its fierce attacks and undermining inroads. The enemies of religion have not been slow in availing themselves of its wonderful facilities for propagating their licentious opinions and infidel notions, and surely it would be unsafe and dangerous for the friends of the truth to remain indolent and inactive. There are thousands and tens of thousands who never come within the sound of the preaching of the gospel who may be to a certain extent influenced by the press, and by religious tracts and periodicals, restrained from much mischief if not inclined to what is good. We know no religious denomination of any standing in society that does not call in the assistance of the Press in conducting its educational, benevolent and missionary

undertakings, and many of them more especially those who possess ample means and have numerous adherents, have not only their weekly but also their monthly and quarterly journals conducted with much ability and exerting a most salutary influence wherever they circulate.

The true friends of the church must be convinced that it is high time for us to have at least one organ of communication on which we can depend, which will utter no doubtful or uncertain sound, and lend not a reluctant and divided but a cordial and stedfast support to all our institutions and all our undertakings. We shall be greatly disappointed if our friends and fellow-christians shall not find such a publication in the "Monthly Record." We must solicit their friendly indulgence if they do not find in its pages all the varied and important information, which they are led to expect, or may wish to obtain. We have as yet found no room for poetry, although we have many poetical readers. Some might wish for much fuller political intelligence, especially respecting the progress of the war. But we must recall the attention of our readers, to the avowed design of our publication, and we feel bound in good faith to adhere to the course which has been marked out for us. Perhaps it may be thought by some that we have occupied a much larger space than was at all necessary in this and the preceding numbers, with ecclesiastical intelligence. But we were anxious to put our friends in possession as early as possible of the latest and fullest reports of the proceedings of our superior ecclesiastical courts. We shall endeavour to find room in succeeding numbers for a larger amount of religious and practical reading, and we must also endeavour to find out some more Leila Adair's and interesting narratives for the instruction and improvement of our youthful readers. But we must not promise too much, and it will be wise for us to stop here at present.

Address to the Lieutenant Governor.

On Monday the 9th instant a deputation from the Synod of Nova Scotia in connexion with the Church of Scotland, consisting of the Rev. John Martin Moderator; Revd. William Snodgrass, Synod Clerk; Revd. Alexander McKid, Moderator of the Synod of Canada; Revd. Dr. Mathieson, of Montreal, Revd. John Scott, Revd. Allan Pollock, Revd. George W. Sprott, Revd. Alexander McKay, and Doctor Avery, accompanied by the Honourable James McNab, Honorable Alexander Keith, and William Murdoch, Esquire, waited upon His Excellency Sir GASPARD LE-MARCHANT, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, with the following Address, to which His Excellency was pleased to return the subjoined reply.

To His Excellency Major General Sir J. GASPARD LE-MARCHANT, Knight and Knight Commander of the Order of St. Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain, Lieutenant Governor, and Commander-in-Chief and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

We Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, in Synod convened, as the Representatives in this Colony of a National Church recognised in, and

pledged to uphold, the British Constitution, beg to approach Your Excellency with the expression of our devoted attachment to our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, of our sympathy with her in the present great conflict in which her fleets and armies are engaged, and of our profound respect for Your Excellency as Her Representative.

In this new world in which our lot is cast, it is our constant aim to inculcate among those of whom we have the oversight, those principles of sound religion and morality which, maintained from early times by our parent Church in Scotland, have been mainly instrumental in moulding a people distinguished for their industry and respect of order, their reverence towards God, and their loyalty to their earthly Sovereign.

We rejoice that in the good providence of God, the precious privileges of the British Constitution, are so largely enjoyed by us in this colony and it is our constant prayer that they may be handed down, unimpaired, to the latest posterity.

While we have witnessed with deep satisfaction the temporal prosperity that has prevailed in this colony during your Excellency's administration of the Government, we have noticed with thankfulness your Excellency's public recognition of Almighty God as the source of every blessing, as the Ruler and Governor among the nations, by the appointment of days of thanksgiving for his mercies, and of humiliation on account of our sins.

It is our earnest prayer that God may smile on all your efforts for the welfare of those over whom you exercise authority, and that he may bless you in your person, your family, and your Government.

In the name, and by appointment, of the Synod of Nova Scotia in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

JOHN MARTIN, Moderator.

WILLIAM SNODGRASS, Clerk.

Halifax, 7th July 1855.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

Reverend Gentlemen, and Gentlemen.

I receive with pleasure this expression of your loyalty to the Queen, and of your sympathy with the sufferings occasioned by the severe conflict in which her majesty's fleets and armies are engaged,

For the kind sentiments expressed towards my family and myself, and for the warm interest which you have evinced in the success of my administration, I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgements.

Those moral and religious principles which, inculcated by your Church, have induced habits of industry, love of order, reverence for the Deity, and loyalty to the Queen, in Scotland, cannot fail, when disseminated and fostered by its Representatives here, to produce corresponding results in Nova Scotia.

It is very pleasing to me to perceive your just appreciation of the blessings of the British Constitution, and I am convinced that no effort will be wanting, on your part, to ensure their transmission unimpaired to the latest posterity.

In adverting to the temporal prosperity of the Province, which has happily been co-existent with my government, you have been pleased to allude, with approval, to my recognition of Almighty God as the source of every blessing.

If my earnest endeavours to promote the welfare of the people over whom I have the honour and the happiness to preside shall be

attended with any measure of success, I trust I shall not fail to ascribe that result to the sacred influence to which you have referred, whilst in the future prosecution of my public labours I shall rely with confidence upon the support of your spiritual ministrations.

J. GASPARD LEMARCHANT.

HALIFAX, 9th July, 1855.

Extracts from Journal of the Rev. George Harper, Missionary.

While visiting Georgetown, P. E. Island, I addressed a letter to the Vice Convener of the Colonial Committee of our Church, recommending the great desirableness of having a Missionary stationed there as soon as possible, and I sincerely trust that a suitable person may soon be found to fill that destitute locality. Not long after, I wrote home to an old class-fellow of mine, the Rev. David Wilson, presently Missionary to the South Parish, Aberdeen, who, I feel confident, if he could be induced to join us (which at one time he spoke of) would form an excellent auxiliary to our cause, and be in every respect well fitted to supply Georgetown, or any other vacancy in these provinces where a knowledge of Gaelic is not indispensable.

I regretted very much that while staying on the Island, I did not enjoy an opportunity of visiting Belfast, where I understand we have a very numerous and respectable body of people, who are strongly attached to the Church of their fathers. I was delighted, however, to learn that the call in favour of the Rev. Mr. Mackay had been so unanimous; and I have every reason to believe, from what I know of that gentleman, who studied along with me at the Divinity Hall of Aberdeen, that his settlement as Minister of that locality, will be greatly conducive to the general interests of the Church on the Island. I am sure that Mr. Mackay, if he has it at all in his power, will not fail occasionally to visit our friends at Georgetown; and I am equally sure that his services will be greatly esteemed by them.

I officiated several times for the Rev. William Snodgrass, of St. James', Charlottetown, where we have also a large and highly respectable congregation, whose affairs, I was glad to find, are at present in a most flourishing state; having an excellent Library in connection with the Church, as well as a smaller one for the benefit of the youth of both sexes who attend the Sabbath school, which I had the pleasure of visiting once or twice. It is superintended by Mr. Snodgrass himself, assisted by an efficient staff of male and female teachers; and, besides being always well attended, presents a model of order and regularity. At the opening and closing of the school, the children are accustomed to sing a hymn—an exercise in which they seem to take great pleasure, and to which they appear to be well trained. In connection with St. James', there is also a fortnightly prayer-meeting, which I believe is always well attended.

In my last communication to the Committee I mentioned that it had been thought advisable that I should be permanently stationed in the district of Wallace and Pagwash, the people being now quite able to support a minister of their own, without any assistance from their funds. But there seem to be two reasons why this arrangement should not, in the meantime at least, be entered into. The first is, because my settlement there, as pastor of the

congregation, would altogether preclude the chance (and it is hoped there is still some chance) of a Gaelic minister being sent out to them. A considerable number, I find, still cling to this hope with fond tenacity; and it would perhaps be scarcely fair to deprive them of the prospects which the constantly increasing number of our students and probationers affords, of ultimately attaining the object of their wishes. Another, and no less important reason is, that there are other stations, besides these now mentioned, which seem equally to deserve a share of my attention, being equally destitute with them. In short, taking all the circumstances of the case into account, it appears to me to be upon the whole the most judicious course, and one most advantageous for the interests of the Church in this quarter, that for some time longer at least, I should remain in the condition of a Missionary, having my headquarters at Wallace, and distributing my labours as wide and usefully as possible, until assistance can be obtained from the parent Church.

Of course, it is understood that the people among whom I am now labouring, as well as others to whom my services may hereafter be rendered as a Missionary, will hand over to the Presbytery of the bounds, whatever sum may be collected, with the view of refunding the Committee for the allowance which I receive from them. It is to be hoped, indeed, that they will consider this in the light of a privilege as well as of a duty, and liberally contribute towards an object so laudable as the support of Gospel ordinances among them, which their brethren at home have shown so much zeal in promoting.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

The Glasgow Mission to Scutari.

The Rev. Mr. MacLeod, the Secretary, has received a Note from their much esteemed missionary, Mr. Ferguson, of date 4th June. He says—

"I have not recovered so rapidly as was expected. Now, however, I am gaining strength very fast, and hope soon to be able for duty. There are not many sick here now, and the work is light comparatively. Mr. Cannon, minister of our Church, has had charge of the field since I became ill. He will remain in charge of it, and when I resume I shall relieve our friend, Mr. Drennan, a little in the Barracks."

I was recommended to go to Prince's Island or Therapia for change of air and in the beginning of last week I got a certificate from Dr. Calder, which Dr. Cumming, G.I.H., recommended, and of which Lord Wm. Paulet approved; so I spent last week at Prinkipo with much advantage. I returned here to spend the Sabbath, and I go off to Therapia in the afternoon, intending (D.V.) to return again on Saturday first, when my fortnight's leave of absence expires. It is quite long enough for me, as the expenses are high.

On Thursday first, I shall have been eight weeks off duty—which, of course, I regret; but you need not be told that it was not my choice.

The following is a portion of Mr. Ferguson's Journal, and is interesting, as affording what we know to be a truthful and unexaggerated account of his valuable labours, which we hope are by this time resumed—

February 10th.—Commenced duty today in the hospital, and met the acquaintance of fifteen Scotchmen. All seemed glad to see

me. Spoke also to several English and Irish. Every one appears thankful for the smallest attention.

February 11th.—Sabbath. Visited in the forenoon, and returned to preach at four P. M., but not one solitary hearer made his appearance! though several had promised, and I ordered a written notice to be read by the ward-master in all the wards. Rather discouraging I hope such apparent carelessness may be satisfactorily accounted for. Must devise some sure method of giving notice throughout the whole hospital.

February 12th.—Wrote four letters at the men's bed-sides—a very pleasing duty. Many men without Bibles, who seem anxious to have one.

February 13th.—Took a pot of jam to R. B., whose gratitude could not find utterance. Think him one of the Lord's people. Slung round my shoulders a bag full of tracts, which created quite a sensation in the wards. Intended them only for my own people, but I could not resist the wistful looks of many as I passed along. Many asked for them, promising to return them when read. Have talked with thirty-eight Presbyterians. Took the addresses of the relatives of two men seemingly dying.

February 14th.—I am satisfied that I was the means of helping to comfort the distressed soul of a dying man this day. He is of the Church of England, but the nurse called me as she could not find his own chaplain. When I first saw him, he was convulsed, and apparently quite unconscious. I spoke into his ear, and he seemed as if he heard me, and the nurse said that he liked it. By-and-by he opened his eyes, but could not speak. His eyes caught my tracts, and he plucked one from the bag, with the eagerness of a dying man thirsting for the "Bread of life," and held it as a sign that he wished to hear instruction. I spoke to him again for a few minutes, and then offered prayer shortly. When I saw him again in a little while, he was able to whisper, and he prayed earnestly and constantly. "O Lord, O Lord, have mercy upon me—have mercy upon my soul." Next time I called to see him he was able to speak, and as soon as he saw me, he inquired, "Are you the minister?" When he learned that I was, he said "God bless you—God bless you." I put my hand upon his head and said, "God bless you." I then repeated to him a few texts, which he seemed to prize much. When I made a pause, he said, "Pray," which I did in a few sentences, and at the close, he repeated, with a loud voice, "AMEN, AMEN, AMEN." He expressed a confident hope in the mercy of God through the Redeemer. I left him, commending him to the care of Him who careth for all His people—promising to write to his mother—and hoping to meet him in glory. He wished me to tell his mother he had every comfort he could desire, and that he died in hope of Heaven.

February 15th.—H. W., mentioned above, died in peace last night. Three of my men apparently fast going the same road—shall not be astonished though two of them be dead by the morning. Spoke to those whose strength could bear it, in stronger language to-day than I have formerly used. Several seemed to listen with deep interest. Two Episcopalians are apparently deeply impressed, but not through my words; one of them, I fear is dying. How needful is wisdom, to be at once faithful and judicious! Had a long talk with a sergeant of the 63rd at the gate—touched his feelings acutely. When I asked if he had a wife and family. "Ay, Sir, that's the worst of it,

—that we may die here, and never see those dear to us again."

February 16th.—Made the acquaintance of several for the first time, and visited all those in a dangerous state. Had much encouragement from some. A few apparently under convictions—others, alas! seemingly dying, trusting to their good deeds, or rather, comparative innocence. A Methodist wished to speak to me—he wept much, but said he was enabled to say "Thy will be done." I read to him from "The Sheltering Vine," parts iii. and iv., page 163:—

"Thy will be done."
My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way.
Oh! teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

A beautiful hymn. It seemed as if it had been expressly written for his case. I would here again thank Mr. McLeod for that book. It has cheered the hearts of many!

February 17th.—Wrote a letter for W. M. N. to his wife. Spent the rest of the time among those seemingly dying, and those under convictions. To myself a profitable day, and I trust to others even more so. Two, formerly indifferent, melted under the word. God grant that these impressions may not soon pass away. It is necessary to be earnest with all, but especially with dying men. Visited the Sable Hospital for the first time, and found five Presbyterians. Went to the Palace Hospital, to inquire whether any Presbyterian officers were sick; none. Dr. Menzies said that the Scotchmen seem more healthy than the English and Irish. Two of my people have gone this morning. Have hope of one; but, alas, none of the other!

February 18th.—Sabbath. Other two of my people gone; know nothing of the state of either. Very many dangerously ill. Must exert to see them often, and be faithful to their souls. Had a meeting for public worship at 4 P. M. Eight convalescents attended, and six or seven others, of whom some seemed deeply impressed. Hope to have a larger attendance next Sabbath. We had no psalms, and could not have singing; but our meeting, such as it was, is the first that has been held at Scutari in the Presbyterian form.

February 19th.—A very pleasant day.—Several seem deeply humbled. Wrote four letters. Many still very ill, and some apparently dying. One, to whom I proclaimed the fullness of the Gospel offer, said, "It is too late now." I replied, "No! it is not yet too late. 'Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'" He cried bitterly, and said I had quoted his father's text. He added "Amen" to the prayer with much fervour. He seems very near his end.

February 20th.—Another pleasant day among my people. Feel much encouraged to persevere in earnestly addressing the men. Two died—one in the morning, whom I had seen only twice, and the other in the afternoon—the Methodist spoken of, Feb. 16th. I doubt not he has gone to the "Happy Land." A young man said, when I asked how he did, "I am just going; I shall not see to-morrow," and so it was. Alas! he made no response to all I said to him.

February 21st.—Still saddened at so many being so ill. Yet what a change in the health of my people! Scarcely one but had to tell me that he is decidedly better. Exhorted all to give the praise to God, and to express their gratitude. Many were in tears. One to whom I had spoken only twice before declares he shall rise, if God spare him, a new man.

The first time I spoke to him, he appeared exceedingly indifferent. The next time I called he was asleep, and I did not awaken him. Two days ago I found him awake, and seemingly glad of my visit. When I told him I had found him asleep last time I came around he said, twice over, "You should have awakened me; I like always to hear a few words now and then." He was now very low, and seemed rather apprehensive of death. I offered to pray with him but to my surprise he declined. To day he received me gladly, told me he had received bad news, and put into my hands a letter informing him of the death of his father. He said, "When I saw you come in at the ward-door I said to myself, then the Lord is sending me a friend to comfort me in my sorrow." He wept much, and exclaimed, "Oh, what the Lord hath done for my soul!" The Scriptures are very precious to him now. He tried to repeat the 2d Paraphrase, which he said he remembered from his youth. He could scarcely repeat it for tears. Every word seemed to tell upon him. He said it was his prayer. To God be all the praise.

February 22d.—Wrote three letters, and thirty-two notices of the hour of public worship on Sunday, to be posted on the ward-doors. Visited the Palace Hospital, and found fifteen men who have a special claim on me; all seemed glad to see me, some extremely so; the whole getting better; the whole much in want of books; some want Bible, and desire particularly to have the Scotch Psalms and Paraphrases. Left four notices of Sunday meeting, in case any of the surgeons or others able to do so might wish to attend.

As I passed along one of the wards, inquiring for those to whom it is my special mission to minister, my attention was arrested by the giant-like appearance of one of the patients. He told me that he is the stoutest, and at the same time the youngest, of the heavy cavalry. He had caught cold in the trenches. To see such a large-bodied man laid prostrate by disease, and speaking in a whisper, shows, in every deed, that no man need glory in his might. I was surprised and gratified to find him speaking, and with every appearance of sincerity, in the language of a devout Christian.

February 23.—One of my people died this morning. Several very bad cases are apparently getting better. Fear much that the feeling which many shows is only, temporary and will, as soon as they get well, pass away like the morning cloud and the early dew. Still, I cannot but hope that there are several cases where a decided change has been wrought. Put up notices of the hour of public worship.

February 24.—Took two oranges to one to whom I had promised them yesterday, and, to my surprise, his spirit had just fled from the feeble prison-house, when I reached his bedside. Was no less surprised to find another gone, who, two days ago, had his name taken down for England. A great improvement in the health of the men generally. Visited with Lady Alicia Blackwood, all the soldiers' wives. Her ladyship has much credit for her efforts in behalf of this degraded and neglected class. Have promised to preach to them occasionally.

February 25.—Sabbath. Prepared to preach in the afternoon—had about twenty hearers. Baptized one child—was called after the service, to visit a man thought in a dying state. One of those pleasant cases, where the fire of divine love has been kindled in the soul, and

only requires to be blown a little to make it mount into a flame.

February 26.—Visited S. P., Irish Presbyterian, whom I was called to see yesterday. Found him still alive, and able to converse freely. He said he felt the Lord was about to call him hence, and that a few days more would finish his race here, and that he felt more and more comfort at the thought of leaving this sinful world. Was much surprised to find W. R., alluded to on 21st, gone; I doubt not he sleeps in Jesus. Several of my people worse in health; but apparently more thoughtful. Two young men told me that they think there will be a great change in the army after these afflictions, and that many of those who recover will lead new lives.

February 17th.—Visited Palace Hospital; all my people improving in health there. Added six to my list, five of whom have just come from the Crimea. All seemed most thankful for books and tracts.

February 28th.—Visited nearly the whole of my men in the General Hospital. Four apparently dying—two of them, I fear, impenitent. One man, who is getting better, and whom I formerly thought impressed, seems truly penitent, and says he wishes to prepare for the Communion. Gave him something to read on the Lord's Supper. Found out four Presbyterians whom I had not before seen. Visited also the Sable Hospital; all there doing well.

Meeting of the Canada Synod.

We publish in the present issue of our periodical a report of the proceedings of the Synod of our Church. The address of the Moderator, at the close of the Session of the Court, will be found well worthy of attentive perusal. Many subjects of interest were discussed, and we trust that the action and deliberations of this Synod will be productive of good to the Church. It is indeed gratifying to witness the efforts made to draw more closely the bonds of brotherhood between our own Synod and those of the Church in the Lower Provinces. Our brethren there have been making the most praiseworthy exertions for the extension of the Church, and the cultivation of friendly intercourse and the manifestation of Christian sympathy will prove cheering to both sections of the Church, while the result may yet be the meeting of a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in British North America. We trust that the subject of lay representation will receive the careful consideration of sessions. It is very important that the Eldership should be brought to take a deeper and more active interest in the proceedings of our Church Judicatories. After attendance at meetings of Presbytery or Synod a warmer interest cannot but be felt in all the operations of the Church at large as well as locally. Much difficulty has often been felt as to with whom the granting of churches for religious purposes other than those of worship should rest, and it is well that an authoritative decision of the Synod has been come to, declaring it to be with the Kirk Sessions. The position of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund is in many respects gratifying, but now that so many new annuitants have in the Providence of God been cast upon it we trust that congregations will see it their duty to give it a larger measure of support, and will extend to the forthcoming appeal of the Commission of the Fund a warm and generous response. The appointment of a Standing Committee on

Church property is not without importance. The affording of information as to the proper legal mode of acquiring and holding Church property, the ascertaining of the extent of such property now held, and the collection of statistics as to the efforts in Church and Manse erection from time to time being made, will naturally fall within the province of their duties, and prove useful to our Churrn. The Synod opened under solemn and affecting circumstances; the attendance was numerous, and a feeling of humiliation was manifested, while ere entering upon the duties of the Synod, a special devotional service was engaged in, looking to the direction and guidance of the Great Head of the Church. During the Session one of the number was taken sick and within a week passed away from Earth and its trials and duties,—another call to humiliation and to prayerful efforts for the extension of our Church. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest that He will send labourers into the Vineyard."

The position of our Church is in many respects peculiar: our trials have been not a few; the openings for usefulness are increasing; the calls for pastors are numerous; it behoves then those who love our Zion to be earnest in prayer, that faithful men may be raised up to break the bread of life to the many vacant congregations in the land, and to supply the places of those Ministers whom from time to time God calls from the scene of their labours. May it be put into the hearts of many of our young men to say in view of the clamant calls for more pastors, "Here am I, Lord, send me."—*Canada Presbyterian.*

The Deputations to the Synods in the Lower Provinces.

We have pleasure in intimating that the Rev. Dr Mathieson and the Rev. A. McKid, the Moderator of the Synod, have proceeded to Halifax as delegates from the Synod of Canada to the Synod of the Church of Scotland of Nova Scotia, now in session. We also learn that the Revs Dr McGill and Professor Weir, the delegates to the Synod of New Brunswick, purpose proceeding to St. John, New Brunswick, to attend the session of the Synod there, which will commence on 10th of August next and design, if possible, arriving there a few days before the opening of the court. We shall await with interest the issue of these missions and trust that greater sympathy and closer union, contributing to the spread of true religion, may be the result.

For the Monthly Record

The congregation of St. Andrew's church, in the Town of Pictou, under the Pastoral charge of the Rev. A. W. Herdman, is at the present time in a more flourishing condition, than at any former period of its history. The discontinuance of ministerial services for some years previous to the arrival of Mr. Herdman, and the secession of a large number of people to the Free Church of Scotland—created a partial disorganization in the temporal, as well as the spiritual affairs of the congregation which required great perseverance and patient endeavour to overcome.

Although the people as a body retained unimpaired their love for the church of their Father's, and were anxious that it should grow and prosper among them, yet the strength of united action and hearty cooperation were wanting, and it was no easy

matter to organize—from the scattered and somewhat discordant elements, which then composed the congregation, an united and energetic body.

That happy result has however been obtained, and we are principally indebted for our present prosperity, to the earnestness and devotion of a few of the lay members of the church, and to the constant and devoted exertions of our minister. The congregation contributes liberally to the various schemes of the church, which they are called upon to assist, and have likewise within the last two years expended a considerable sum of money in repairing and improving their church. We have recently at an expense of over £100 altered the arrangement of the pews in the lower part of the church by means of which the comfort of the people is greatly increased, and the collection of church stipends much facilitated. During the last winter a lot was purchased by the congregation, upon which a manse is now in course of construction, which is estimated to cost about £600, and which will be completed about the month of October next.

It is pleasantly situated at a convenient distance from the church. And we hope that when finished it will afford an acceptable and agreeable residence to our respected Pastor, and operate as an inducement to the younger members of the congregation, to continue, and if possible exceed the efforts, which their fathers are now making, to advance the prosperity of this congregation.

From this short review you will perceive that an increasing interest in the welfare and prosperity of the church is evinced by the people of this place. On the last Sabbath of June, our Sacrament was dispensed in English and Gaelic. The Rev. J. Scett, of St. Matthew's, Halifax, assisted in the former whose fervour of devotion, and spirituality of matter, made a most favourable impression. His sermon on "following the Lamb," on Sabbath evening was felt to be exceedingly appropriate. The Gaelic Labourers, Messrs. MacGillivray, and MacKay, edified their audiences. The assemblage was large, especially considering New Glasgow held their Sacrament on the same day, and altogether it was a comfortable and refreshing season.

May God grant His blessing with the means now in operation, and to their favourable signs grant his own spirit that souls may be converted and many gathered to Christ.—*Com.*

We are obliged to omit our summary of news for this month. Scotch Education Bill lost in the House of Lords, 80 to 3.

THE FREE GAELIC CHURCH, PERTH.—There has been a dispute among the members of this church, arising out of a difference of opinion as to whether one or more Gaelic sermons should be preached on the course of the Sabbath. The result has been that a disruption of the congregation has taken place, and that about 100 communicants, besides others, have come back to the Established Church. The Presbytery of Perth have made an application to the Home Mission Fund.

BAPTISM OF THE INFANT DAUGHTER OF THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD.—Florence, the infant daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford, was baptised on Saturday, by the Rev. Dr. Cumming, minister of the Scotch National Church, Crown Court, Covent Garden.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ADDITION TO STOCK THIS MONTH

W. & C MURDOCH & CO.
 In addition to their former stock of DRY GOODS this Spring, have received a further assortment of:
 White Shirts, Umbrellas,
 Grey do. White Flannels,
 Striped do. Red do.
 Dress Trimmings, VESTINGS,
 Small Wares, Do. Shapes,
 Hosiery, Fancy Trimmings,
 Whalebone, Braces Assorted.
 Kerseys, Hosiery, Printed Oil Cloths, and Covers,
 An assortment of GARMENTS,
 And invite the early attention of Buyers.
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