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RECORD

OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In Noba Scotia and the adjoining Probinces.

VOL. VII.

FEBRUARY 2, 1861.

No. 3.

"IF I PORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND PORGET MER CUNNING."—Ps. 127, r. 5.

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CAPE BRETON AS A MISSIONARY FIELD.

The strength, the back bone we might almost say of the Church of Scotland in the Province of Nova Scotia, is in the single County of Pictou. But that we have not many and flourishing congregations in almost every district of the country has been owing rather to want of ability to supply the de-mand, than any lack of material. In the Presbytery of Halifax we have but two regularly organized churches, and these in the city—whereas had we had ministers to supply vacancies as they occurred, we might have had at the very least five flourishing congregations, as well as several preaching stations. Much of the ground abandoned in that quarter from pure necessity has been permanently lost. Other denominations have stepped in, in some instances even taking possession of our Church property, and establishing themselves in such a manner that we can now scarcely hope to get back what was once our own. We have two congregations and have lately acquired a third in the County of Cumberland-but as we stated at the outset, the strength of our Church, in point of numbers, and perhaps, take it all in all in point of ability or the means of susholy religion is in the County of Pictou. limits of our field, to allow one place after Vol. VII.—No 3.

Here there are at least a dozen large and well organized congregations, either supplied with stated ministers, or at least partially so-We have just had an accession of four missionaries, and it becomes a question of no small moment, how may these be best located for the interest of our Church. Where can they best be sent so as at once to carry the glad tidings to the greatest number and at the same time be conducive to the prosperity of our National Zion. These are two objects which ought never to be separated, and if worked out with an earnest and single purpose will be found to be the best, the surest, and most successful means of bringing the means of grace within reach of our people. Every living Church is an aggressive Church, seeking out new fields and sending into these fields fresh laborers. When it ceases to do so, it is a symptom of dangerous decay and an evidence of lethargy and deadness on the part of either ministers or people, possibly of We cannot depute our duties to others. They have work of their own, full and aufficient, and if they appear to relieve us, they do so by shearing us of a portion of our strength, of our worth in the sight of God and man, as well as of our own self-respect. taining and extending the great truths of our It is a sad thing to be obliged to contract the

another to run to waste or to pass altogether out of our hands for want of means of cultivation. In this respect our Church has been peculiarly unfortunate, but is there not now some appearance of a prospect of being able to retrieve a portion at least of our lost ground? We are glad to find that the Presbytery of Picton has determined to send two missionaries to the Island of Cape Breton, once more to break ground in a place where we have been strong, and where we believe we still number many attached and devoted adherents. We have at least been assured over and over again, that such is the fact, and we ought certainly to lose as little time as possible in ascertaining how far it is a fact and guiding ourselves accordingly. In Cape Breton, we had formerly numerous and deeply attached congregations, and at the last census we were informed that upwards of 6000 gave in their names as belonging to the Church of Scotland. For these poor people , we have done nothing for well nigh twenty years, and the only remarkable circumstance is that a fragment should yet remain. heart must be cold, and that love for the Church of our fathers lukewarm indeed, which could turn away from these our own long neglected brethren without a feeling of sympathy, and a readiness to help them at the earliest opportunity. We rejoice therefore, to find that at last there is something like a certainty of soon ascertaining how strong or how weak our Church now is in the Island of Cape Breton. What are the feelings of the people, and what is the spirit of the ministers-of what was the Free Church towards us? We have to find out the number of our adherents, their means - their disposition -their position. What they are able to do, and what they are likely to do towards the maintenance of gospel ordinances among them in connection with the Church of Scot-These are important matters, both to themselves and to the Church at large, which can only be understood by a somewhat lengthened sojourn of a couple of active and sealous missionaries among them for some time. It is encouraging to find that of the five misaionaries at present under the Presbytery of Pictou, one and all of them are not only willing but anxious to go anywhere, where their labors are most required. And that spirit is in itself a guerdon of success-2 spirit which cannot fail to make itself contagious, and that thus our ruined walls may once more be built up, and a larger portion of our former strength and influence won back than we had almost dared to hope for. It is important to our friends in Cape Breton to know, that the proposed visit of our missionaries can only be tentative. They go to examine the ground, and find out whether we are or shall be able to obtain a permanent foothold in that fine island. Much, we might almost say every-thing will depend upon themselves. If we

disposition to help them on the part of the Church so far as it is able. But we hope that they will be fully alive to the necessity and importance both of effort and sacrifice. The Church at Home has guaranteed the salary of our missionaries only for a limited time—yes with a generosity which we scarcely expected so that the people must do something in the meantime, in the speedy prospect of soon being obliged to do all. And after all if we view the subject aright, that duty is a great privilege—the privilege of possessing a stated Gospel ministry.

To our brethren in Cape Breton we say, be up and doing. In the spring or as soon as travel is practicable—these missionaries will be among you. If there are among you many who love the Church of your fathers, who wish the word of truth preached to you in your native tongue by ministers of that church -full of zeal in their Master's cause, and with qualifications, intellectual and spiritual which fit in an especial manner for their important work-now is the time to show practically that such is the case, by making earnest and energetic preparation for securing their services permanently instead of it may be, only for a short time. Let each one ask himself how much am I in earnest by ascertaining what amount of his worldly means he is willing contribute to so important an end. We are aware that there are many among them who are not blessed with much ahundance of this world's goods-but we do not think there are any who could not do something towards the common object. We have written with some urgency, in the hope that this article will be read by many friends of our Church in Cape Breton, and that they will not only approve, but back up by all the means in their power the spirit in which it has been conceived. We are of those who love the old paths, and look up with reverence to the time honored associations of the Church of Scotland-that Church in which our fathers for three hundred years have worshipped and taken sweet counsel together, which is still strong and comely, and pure and earnest, which numbers among its living sons many of the greatest and the best. It is the Church of our youth-of our loveand our hopes, and we trust that with one heart we will all labor together for its prosperity and extension. We would be glad to hear from any friends of our Church in Cape Breton, any facts which might be considered useful or interesting, connected with their present condition and prospects, and once more we say to all of them "be up and doing."

TER-CENTENARY OF THE REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND.

island. Much, we might almost say everything will depend upon themselves. If we mistake not there is a strong and generous first General Assembly of the Reformed

Church in Scotland. On the 23th December, since the Reformation, and it was a fitting 1860, was colebrated in every parish in the time for the Presbytorians of Scotland to land the three-hundredth anniversary of the pause and take a steady look back on the event. The interval between the two dates is the historical period of Scotland, Before the 16th century, it was a land of fables and traditions, of heroic deeds and stormy passions. Then it came forth full-grown, and took its place as a power in the world. It sent forth its sons to teach and to lead in old worlds, to discover and colonise in new. Knox was the founder of that new family of Scotchmen which has so flourished in the world from that day to this. He was a true king of men. Like John the Baptist, the atmosphere of courts could not corrupt; him. When queen and barons, priest and prelate, thought only of their selfish interests, he spoke for the people, for education, for freedom, political and religious. As true a man as ever lived, brave as Luther, patriotic as Wallace, was our John Knox.

What has Scotch Protestantism done during the last 300 years? Not so much in Scotland as might have been expected from its vitality. It has not converted to the national type of Presbytery the upper classes, who are, almost to a man, Episcopalians. It has not Protestantized those ten thousands of Irish Romanists who have flocked to its It has not even rooted out the powerful remnants of Popery that ever since the Reformation have possessed many fair portions of the land, -in Glenivet, Moldart, Uist, and in the South as well as in the North. It has not been sufficiently generous and expansive to keep the whole family united under one roof-tree. And why has it thus not fulfilled its complete mission? Because when it became powerful, it was the first to deny its own spirit and principles. It became intolerant and persecuting. It bound itself by inelastic bands like those which it had indignantly cast off. And when the days of proscription and persecution had passed, the punishment of such unfaithfulness remained upon it. Thus does every institution as well as every man reap as it sows. But if in Scotland it has not done so much, out of Scotland it has done more than was ever anticipated. It has made Scotchmen proverbial for the qualities of sound thinking and steady acting, for reverence and uprightness. Look for them in positions of trust, or where selfcontrol and segacity are needed, and you will be sure to find them: for example, on board of our great steamships, whether on the Cunard line, on the Mediterranean, in the Turkish navy, or elsewhere, should no one else be Scotch, the engineers are sure to be so. Sailing down the Danube, you will hear little but broad Scotch from that section of the officers. And if any of my readers ever visit Lake Como, they need not brush up their Italian to speak to the engineer. The dialect of Lanarkshire will be much more acceptable. Three hundred years had come and gone

past and forward into the future. They had to thank God for blessings, to reproach them-selves for shortcomings. They were summoned to forgive and forget, to bury rivalries and hatreds, to shake hands with each other, and pray God for the larger heart and the "wider day." In many parts of Scotland this was done, and done well. In other parts, sectarianism with its hard shibboleths was too rampant. Some months before, the Free Church had tried to get up a celebration which it would have all to itself; and the same men who headed that one were the chief obstacles to worthily celebrating the day that the whole Presbyterian heart of the nation had agreed upon. But in Glasgow, the great capital of Presbyterianism, the harsh notes of hydra-headed sect were hushed for the occasion, and there was none so bold as to awake them. A half-holiday was almost universally given and taken, and in the afternoon there was service in all the churches. In the evening a magnificent meeting was held in the City Hall, at the close of which it was announced that the representatives of eight different Churches had been present, There were only four thousand people in the Hall, simply because not another person could get even an inch of standing room. There was present the vast proportion of the wealth and intelligence, the worth and nobleness of old St. Mongo's city. Three ministers of the Established Church (Dr. Hill, Dr. Mc-Leod, and Mr. Cochrane) took part in the proceedings; two of the Free Church; and two of the U. P. body. Of course I cannot here attempt to give even an outline of the addresses delivered. Dr. McLeod gave what was without doubt the speech of the evening, It was fair and manly, for it paid all homage to Romanism for the good it had done; and that I am sorry to say is a thing that very iew Protestants ever do. He spake of the unity of Protestantism as a real thing underlying all outward differences. Is it the unity of a living Church, or of a dead churchyard that is desired? The unity of spirit of the vast audience in the Hall, or the unity of corpses stretched out, head to head? For thus diverse is the unity of Protestantism from that of Papery.

I was never present at a more interesting meeting. It was surely a "sign of the times" to see on the same platform the representatives of the great Protestant Churches, manifesting the union spirit if not making an outward union, and speaking to each other in love instead of in "gunpowder speeches." It was surely a striking fact to see the precedence and leadership admitted to our national Church by all, and in that very city in which some years previously Mr. Sprott says a man could not live unless he were a Free Churcheman. Such meetings are gurely harbingers

of "the good time coming," showing that our differences are but surface-deep, while the beatings of our hearts are the same. What then is our duty in view of such events, for present duty is all that is ever incumbent upon us. Manifestly this:—for each Protestant Church to attend to its own work, to fulfil its own mission, knowing that if this be done honestly by each and all, we will all necessarily meet in one, "and that right early."

(For the "Record."

AUTUMN.

The mellow days have come, When Nature, like a mourner for the lost, With pale hands on a widowed bosom crossed, Sitteth alone in gloom.

Soft shadows drooping lie, Heavy with memory of departed light, Whose depth of glory still to fancy's sight Dapples the noonday sky,

The frost has touched the leaves,
Tracing their tissues with a pencilling rare,
Weaving a web in hues of stained glass, where
They fringe the mountain eaves.

Treasures of changeful light Even as a casket, doth the forest hold; Rich scarlet hung by wreaths of shaded gold, Blending in drapery bright.

By quivering sunlight crowned, They fold with beauty every trembling branch; Yet as we watch, in fluttering avalanche They heap the russet ground—

Emblems of death in life:
So lift we up our heads so stately here.
Yet one by one the dauntless and the dear
Fall weakly in the strife.

Earth's fresh and perfumed crown-Of flowers, fair flowers, is softly lingering still, Where with a touch of summer, south winds will

They glance in heauty down.

Flashing each dewy vase
That drinks the light from every mellow cloud,
Until their gorgeous colors weave a shroud
Above their burial place.

Now the rich night unfolds Her grand regalia on the evening sky; Seed pearls in stars, planets with diamond eye, Her ebon casket holds.

Autumn is glorious now;
Pale Luna weareth golden robes for her,
And silver clouds, all surpliced, minister
Where spacy vestals bow,

While meteors flash and fall, Swift-pinioned messengers from star to star— Strange telegraphic signals from afar— Answering not when we call.

Here, like a pure heart's faith, Glery remains while all around is dim, Nature pours forth in these a swelling hymn, Triumphant over death.

All else is changed and sere,
Touched by the hectic fingers of decay,
Earth's wasted treasures, cerement-like army,
The faint and dying year.

With unstrung broken lute,
Weeping in sorrow at a ruined shrine,
Nature the potent, the almost divine,
Kneels, a pale priestess mute.

For when the summer trod, And with creative feet enchantment gave On forest aisles, in earth's green echoing nave, Is written "Ichabod."

M. J. K.

Halifax, November, 1860.

THE OPPRESSED SET FREE.

Approaching a farm-house one day, I saw an arm-chair, with some pillows on it, placed in front of the door; and as I advanced, a very frail old man, assisted by a middle-aged woman and a young girl, tottered out, and seated himself in it. The woman immediately re-entered the house, but the girl bustled about, first on one side, and then on the other, putting some things to rights; and when all was in order, stood leaping and clapping her hands before the old man

My approach being observed, suddenly put an end to this expression of her joyfulness, and she shrank behind the chair, as if ashamed to have been seen.

"Are you glad to see your grandfather out this fine day?" I said, as I came up. And while she hid her face on his shoulder, he replied, "She's a light-hearted lassie, and at things make her glad. The wise man says, A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.' and I often think of this when I look at her."

"This bright sunshine should, I think, make us all glad," I said; "it will be such a blessing to the country, after the heavy raina we have had. I suppose your sons will be husy with their hay?"

"Indeed," he said, "I seldom ken what they're busy with—they can manage best without me now; and them that canna work, needna speak. But I tell them, the day was, when I could work as weel's the best o' them, and it's my hard toil makes me sit easy; and maybe the time's coming when they'll be auld and frail too."

"I am glad to see your granddaughter so anxious to make you comfortable," I remark-

ed, wishing to turn to something more pleasant. "She is that, poor thing," he replied; "she takes more thought about me than all the rest put together; and if I am right, you would really think she minds naething else. And it's just surprising to see her, for neither play nor companions can take her away if she thinks I need her; and many a weary hour her merry face lightens. The Lord reward her for it!"

I was delighted with this testimony to Lilly's thoughtfulness, and very thankful that such a solace had been provided for the poor affection than she had yet known, possessed old man amid the many trials of his declining her whole being. years. And my own observation afterwards proved, that this picture of her devotedness

had not been overdrawn.

On all occasions I found her by his side; and even the merry play of others close by, seemed never for a moment to make her weary of her faithful and uninterrupted attendance on him.

As the season advanced, the old man's strength gradually became less; and at length, a violent cold brought on other complaints, which soon terminated his long-protracted

carthly career.

Lilly alone seemed to mourn deeply his removal. But a sickly brother soon claimed her care, and in him all her affections seemed to centre, -and this, returning health did not diminish. She could not, indeed, then be his constant companion, because he was of an age to engage in regular labor. But her whole occupation, so far as she could herself command it, had reference to him. She fed his pets, and tended his favorite flowers, and she looked for his evening return as that which constituted her chief joy. The clinging tendrils of this delicate plant seemed again to have bound themselves closely to a supporting stem; and again the stem was to be wrenched away.

An apparently slight illness, which excited no apprehension in any other, drew forth all her tenderest anxieties; and a sudden death with its piercing east wind, and Charles was overwhelmed her with inconsolable sorrow. She thought that his illness had been neglected; that death might have been averted by better care; and her whole soul was filled with bitter and unavailing regrets. How strange a change had a few short days accomplished on her whole feelings and character! The light-hearted girl, occupied only with very trides, had become burdened with fearful responsibilities, and solemn in the contemplation of eternal realities; and time was awakening a deep questioning in her inmost soul, as to what her own destiny, as an immortal being, might comprehend. In this, rather than in any outward object, her thoughts seemed now to centre; and for two years she lived a solitary and lonely thing, having no sympathy with any of the laborious, busy tamily that surrounded her, although she took her part with them in the needful toil which her condition demanded.

About this time, a companion of her brother's, who had, for some years, occupied a lucrative situation in a neighboring city, returned, after a severe illness, to a contiguous cottage, where he had been reared, in hopes that his wasted strength might soon be restored by his native air. His exhausted and sickly appearance at once drew froth all Lilly's sympathy; and as his mind like her's had been awakened to the importance of eternal things, this feeling strengthed day by, day, and soon a deeper and more heart-stirring

The fresh breezes and the bright sunshine seemed daily to invigorate the bodily strength of her friend, and the time of separation thus drew near; but before he departed to resume his former occupation, it was fully arranged that he should shortly return to make Lilly

the partner of his future lot.

So, bright with hope, they parted; but, alas! returning clouds were to cast a sail shadow of coming sorrow on their next meet-

It needed but the loaded air of a manufacturing city to prove to Charles how far his recovery was from being complete; and her had no sooner sooner returned to it, than his strength again began to fail. But he was unwilling to confess, even to himself, that is was so; and amid a heavy burden of labor, which he was little able for, he continued to struggle on, till he was once more seized with urgent and alarming symptoms, which again forced him to return home.

Lilly's heart sank within her as she gazed on his wasted form and hectic cheek; but he was full of hope, and what she fondly desired, she was too easily persuaded to believe. For a time, he seemed to rally, and she looked anxiously forward to the restoring influence of the summer's sun, wrich had before

wrought such marvels.

But a trying spring was first to visit them destined to lie low amid the clods of the vallev ere the first summer's sun should tham; his native hills.

The deep silence of Lilly's grief was most touching. It was too overwhelming to find utterance in words; and days and weeks had passed away ere the returning tide of sorrow gave back any echo from this cistern, which the deep waters of affliction had so entirely filled; and even then it was only slightly alluded to.

"And can this torn and bleeding heart," I said, "yet live and love again?" as I left her one day,-her form wasted, her color gone. Yes; and with all that energy of affection so peculiarly its own, clung, am d many trials, to the object of its choice.

Such a heart must have something to cling to; and Lilly's affections were once more placed where they seemed to find a return. But those who desired her happiness, doubted

if it were to be obtained by such a union, and cles of the merry dance enchant, and she canmuch was done to hinder it. At length, only not leave it. the fear that her already shaken health would give way under the struggle, led her father to I last entered her dwelling. I had not marked give his consent; and while yet only in her the day, and thought not of it; but I found nineteenth year, she became a wife. As soon as she had taken possession of her own house, I went to visit her.

I found her builty occupied with household care, and her eye brightened as I entered; but while I sat, a sadness often gathered over her countenance, which made me fear that some cankerworm already lodged amid this opening blossom of earthly joy.

The all-engrossing occupations of a wife and a mother seemed soon to absorb her whole being; and Lilly, ever busy at home, was never seen elsewhere, -so busy, indeed, that one felt as if intruding when they ventured, for a little while, to seat themselves by her fire. On all such occasions, one only theme occupied her,-the training of her whildren; and I often remarked, that her husband's name was never mentioned; but, ere long, I learned from others, that there was too good cause for this strange silence. What she so carefully concealed, I desired not to uncover; -it is enough to say, that the midnight hours, which she passed in watching and laboring for him and his children, were spent by her husband in scenes of folly and of vice; and that the fruit of his industry, which should have ministered to her comfort, was often bestowed on those who loved not her peace; but still she labored, and still she suffered unrepiningly, and still she gladly welcomed him when he came; and when arrested in his career of heartless folly by the stein hand of disease, she nursed and tended with as much devotion the last fleeting days of his life, as if the strength and vigor of its prime had been consecrated to her; and she mourned, in the hour of his removal, with a bitterness which that heart only knows that oun cling, even amid unkindness and neglect, to the object which has once secured the homage of its warmest affection; and now, this object removed, her heart seemed to turn with increased love to her children. But, alas! here too it was to be wounded and torn.

A neglected wife is too often a dishonored mother. The son too surely follows in the steps his father trod; and when she who meekly and silently bore the transgressions of a husband, perseveres to reprove the same in a vicious son, how often are words of indignant contempt the only return!

But even worse than this was her lot. Hard words were succeeded by harder blows, until both flesh and heart failed under them. And where now is the daughter who had once been her joy and delight, while her mother languishes on the bed of sickness and of death?

It was on the afternoon of Hallowe'en that her alone, and she assigned this as the reason.

She was so weak, I could with difficulty catch the words she uttered; but they were words of peace and hope, and spoke of a Friend and Comforter ever present,-of a home prepared, where there could lack no joy.

While I listened, the change of death seemed to pass over her countenance, and I felt I could not I have her; but I went to call a neighbor, to whom I imparted my fears. It was indeed the change of death; and in one short hour, the work of the last enemy was

I gazed on her worn and pathd face, aged through sorrow, though still in her prime, and remembered the merry happy girl I had once seen her. "Behold what desolation he hath wrought!" was the utterance of my heart; and never did the work of the Redeemer seem more glorious, nor the hope of His speedy coming, to deliver from the hand of the oppressor the whole creation, more precious, than in that sad and solemn hour. -Edinburgh Christian Magazine.

CATARACTS OF THE ORINOCO.

From the rock of Manima a wonderful prospect is enjoyed. A roaming surface of four miles in length presents itself at once to the eye: Iron-black masses of rock resembling ruins and battlemented towers rise frowning from the waters. Rocks and islands are adorned with the luxuriant vegetation of the tropical forests; a perpetual mist hovers over the waters, and the summits of the lofty palms pierce through the cloud of spray and When the rays of the glowing evening sun are refracted in these humid exhalations, a magic optical effect begins. Coloured bows shine, vanish, and reappear: and the ethereal image is swaved to and fro by the breath of the sportive breeze. During the long rainy season the streaming waters, bring down islands of vegetable mould, and thus the naked rocks are studded with bright flower beds adorned with Melastomas and Droseras, and with small silver-leaved mimosas and ferns. These spots recall to the recollection of the European those blocks of granite decked with flowers which rise solitary amidst the glaciers of Savoy, and are called by the dwellers in the Alps "Jardins," or "Courtils."

In the blue distance the eye rests on the mountain chain of Cunavami, a long extended ridge which terminates abruptly in a truncated cone. We saw the latter (Calitamini is its Indian name) glowing at sunset as if in roseate flames. The appearance returns dai-She too has forgotten her. The magic cir- ly; no one has ever been near the mountain

to detect the precise cause of this brightness which may perhaps proceed from a reflecting surface produced by the decomposition of mica slate.

When M. Bompland and I returned from the banks of the Rio Negro, we ventured to pass the latter or lower half of the Raudal of Atures with the loaded canoe, often leaving it for the rocky dikes which connect one island with another. Sometimes the waters rush over these dikes, and sometimes they fall with a hollow thundering sound into cavities, and flowing for a time through subterranean channels, leave large pieces of the bed of the river dry. Here the golden Pipra rupicola makes its nest; it is one of the most beautiful of tropical birds, with a double moveable crest of feathers, and is as pugnacious as the East Indian domestic cock.

In the Raudal of Canucari the rocky dike or weir consists of piled-up granite spheres. We crept into the interior of a grotto, the damp walls of which were covered with conferwee and shining Bysus, and where the river rushed high above our heads with deafening

We had accidentally more time than we desired for the enjoyment of this grand scene of nature. The Indians had left us in the middle of the cataract, proposing to take the cance round a long narrow island, below which we were to re-embark. We waited an hour and a-half under a heavy tempestuous rain; night was coming on, and we sought in vain for shelter between the masses of granite. The little monkeys, which we had carried with us for months in wicker cages, by their mournful cries attracted crocodiles, whose size and leaden-grey colour shewed their great age. I should not here notice an occurrence so usual in the Orinoco, if the Indians had not assured us that no crocodiles were ever seen in the cataracts; and in dependence on this assurance we had even ventured repeatedly to bathe in this part of the Meanwhile our anxiety lest we might be forced to pass the long tropical night in the middle of the Raudal, wet through and deafened by the thundering noise of the falling waters, increased every moment; until at last the Indians reappeared with our canoe. From the low state of the waters, they had found the steps by which they had intended to let themselves down inaccessible, and had been forced to seek among the labyrinth of channels for a more practical passage.-Humbord's Aspects of Nature.

LETTER FROM MR. SINCLAIR TO COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

The Colonial Committee have received the following letter from the Rev. J. Sinclair, one of their Gaelic speaking missionaries in Nova Scotia:-

PICTOU, October 24, 1860.

Aware of the Colonial Committee's anxiety regarding the Mission field, I shall endeavor to furnish a brief account of that portion of it

assigned to me.

From the extent of bounds prescribed for me, I am almost always on the move from place to place. In company with the Rev. Mr. Herdman and John McKay, Esq., one of our elders, I spent a month in Cape Breton, where we found a large number strongly attached to our Church, and who received us gladly. A month's visit was rather insufficient, but it was all that could be afforded, to ascertain the probable number and the social circumstances of our adherents there. Enough however, had been discovered during that short visit to have warranted us in making the application which the Presbytery, acting on our report, has made to the Committee.

I am exceedingly glad to understand that the application has been taken into favorable consideration; and I pray that one or two missionaries may be found disposed to come to our aid, and cheer the hearts of our peop'e, whose hopes have, by reason of our visit, been revived. I know that some object to the planting of Missions in an unproductive soil, and are of opinion that Cape Breton, being in the rear of other colonies in prosperity and general improvement, should be neglected. The objection comes with a very bad grace from any in communion with the Church of Scotland, which is emphatically the Church of the poor. The truth, however, is, that, judging from the circumstances generally of the inhabitants of that island, the proposed Mission would soon be self-sustaining.

For the last four months I have been, for the most part, assisting at the celebration of the Lord's Supper in various places, and had, therefore, an unusual share of labor to bear; but the number-always a large concoursethe interest, and gratitude of the people, are themselves a great alleviation of toil.

A pleasing feature of congregations here is the avidity with which they hear the word of God. It is seldom or ever necessary to urge attendance on public worship, as they are extremely eager at every opportunity to go to the house of prayer, and their decorous conduct there cannot be surpassed. Another characteristic is their most intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures. Though their advantages, from the public ministrations of the sanctuary, have been few indeed, their knowledge of holy truth is most varied and correct; and though their powers of utterance are, as may be perceived at prayer meetings, surpassingly great, I am not aware that any one has ever elevated himself into the lay preacher's office. They have too much reverence for the ministerial office to do so. This fact is a happy proof that lay preaching is the offspring of superficial knowledge and misguided zeal, and that these qualities cannot be predicated of our people in this quarter. The Highland immigrants to this colony came with the Bible and the Shorter Catechism, and, in most instances, the Confession of Faith in their hand, and hence their sound knowledge of the truth and their attachment

to the Church of their fathers.

In worldly circumstances they are not generally poor; neither are they wealthy. land is pretty equally divided into farms, containing, some one hundred, some two hundred, and some three hundred acres, twothirds of which is generally cleated. The produce of their farms is their only source of income, and this cannot be great, especially when it is considered that the winter consumption is necessarily large, all the cattle being housed for five or six months in the year, and that the supply of timber for exportation is almost exhausted; still there is no want-the land is their own, and they pay no rent; and, for the truly industrious, it is a land of great independence and comfort. I state these facts in order to show how far they can pay for Gospel ordinances. being farmers, and that on a limited scale, and few being artisans, the supply is greater than the demand, particularly in the fall, when the market is glutted and the price very low; and yet the supply is not so ample as to lead to distant exportation. Nevertheless the congregations in the County of Pictou provided with ministers, pay punctually; and as for the vacant congregations, the inducements and encouragements to contribute are, as might be expected from their disorganised state, less strongly felt, and their statistics are not so satisfactory; but I believe that, in the event of their being supplied regularly, they will not be behind those now in full operation. In the landward districts, with which only I am acquainted, the people are They sav most exemplary in their conduct. they are very willing to pay suitably for my services, and I am bound to believe them.

Having been appointed to assist at the communion in Charlottetown, Prince Edwards, I embraced the opportunity of visiting an interesting settlement of Highlanders at De Sable, where there is a large congregation and a handsome church. This is one of the many congregations under the charge of the Rev. Mr. M'Donald. I was most cordially welcomed. Though information of my coming had hardly preceded me, the people cheerfully ceased from busy work, and hurried to church. At the close of the service they paid my carriage hire, and evinced other marks of appreciation of my visit. Had time permitted I would have made the tour of the island, as I understood that there was a large population of Highlanders there, and only one Gaelic minister in connexion with our

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Barney's River, Pictou, is now also vacant, and is in the meantime an addition to my charge. It is due to this congregation that

traordinary efforts to build a place of worship, which, with the aid of the Colonial Committee, and contributions throughout the country, they have accomplished. They regret the translation of their minister to Canada; and indeed to every real lover of the Church, it is a source of pain to have our numbers diminished. Eight congregations without pastoral superintendence, except what one poor missionary could afford—and he not confined, as this shews, even to them-was surely distribution enough.

It is gratifying to observe, amidst every change that has occurred here, two esteemed fathers of the Church labouring with almost youthful vigour in the cause of their divine Master, unaltered and unalterable in their attachment to their Church and the land of their adoption, viz., the Rev. Dr. M'Gilvray and the Rev. Mr. Martin, who have the happiness to see that the Church of Scotland and Nova Scotia recognise their claims to recpect and confidence.- I am, &c.,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE

The Rev. Mr. Jardine of St. Matthew's Halifax, delivered an interesting and abie lecture on "the temporal and spiritual advantages of the Sabbath," before the Young Men's Christian Association, Pictou. The audience was large and respectable, and our only regret was that a large number of those who required and might have profited by the important truths it contained were not present to hear it. The style was animated and vigorous, the reasoning lucid and convincing, and the delivery earnest and forcible, and doubtless afforded pleasure to the hundreds who like ourselves were privileged to hear it. But what of the many, the very many. who frequent neither Church nor lecture room, "who care for none of these things," and whose number is increasing to a frightful extent. Pictou now possesses five or six resident clergymen, and we believe there is at present, without any very marked increase in the population, a very great increase indeed in the amount of depravity and wickedness. There is a large and growing class who never go near a church, who know nothing and care nothing about religious knowledge, and who appear to be almost if not altogether without the pale of ministerial visitation. They are a kind of adult Arans, and the swarm of young Arabs about the corners of our streets is lamentably great, who care for nobody and nobody cares for them. Lectures will never reach these unfortunates, and if reformation is ever to be attained, it must be by personal visitation, by going to them instead of calling to them at a distance which they cannot hear. It was a saying of I should state, that they have made ex- Dr. Chalmers that he waited for the rich to

come and see him they had abundance of time and opportunity, but as the poor and ignorant had neither, he went to see them—a high example, and worthy of universal imitation.

We have had the pleasure of hearing two out of the four missionaries belonging to the Church of Scotland, who lately ar rived among us. The Iter. John Cameron preached in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on Saturday before the Sacrament, in English and Gaelic. His English discourse was distinguished by force and eloquence, and the calm earnestness of the delivery; but the Gaelic sermon was poured forth like a cataract, beautiful, grand and impressive, evincing at once a thorough mastery of the language and of his all-important subject.

The Rev. Mr. Grant has already preached twice in Pictou. His second sermon was delivered before one of the largest diences ever seen in St. Andrew's Church .-Every available spot was occupied, and many had to leave unable to find seats. lieve that the high expectations entertained of the young preacher were fully realized. The text was, "Enoch walked with God;" and the character of the righteous man was drawn with a power, a truth, a precision and earnestness such as are seldom heard from a pulpit. His style is full and flowing, abounding in material, bearing ample evidence of a mind rich to exuberance, but carefully cultivated, well filled and well disciplined. Surely the reward which the Church of Scoland has already reaped in this her first venture in educating her young men at one of the great Universities at home will encourage her not only to persevere, but to carry the plan out thoroughly and systematically. her do this, and in 20 cears or less, she will be in number, in learning, and in in fluence, the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia .-Which of our rich men will put out their money to usury by investing each £100, or £50, or £5 even, in so noble a scheme, All praise to our young Nova Scotians .-May their examples spur on others, and open the hearts and purses of those among us who have been blessed with abundance. We understand that Mr. Grant will lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association on Thursday first: subject—"A few words to my old Schoolmates;" and we have no doubt they will be words worth listening to and treasuring up, and of being acted upon by every young man in Pictou. We know that the advice to go and near them will be on our part a work of supererogation, All will go to listen. We only hope that they will afterwards digest and apply.—Colonial Standard.

GENERAL ITEMS.

MEMORIAL MEETING-THE LATE DR. ROBERTSON .- A memorial meeting was held last Friday afternoon, in the Music Hall Buildings, Aberdeen, to afford an opportunity to the friends of Dr. Robertson of expressing their deep sense of his less, and testifying their respect and admiration both of his private character and of the great services which he rendered to the Church and country. The Lord Provost occupied the chair; and there was a large and respectable attendance of ladies and gentlemen. The first resolution was moved by the Rev. Dr. Bisset of Bourtie and seconded by William Cosmo Gordon, Esq., of Fyvie—"That this meeting, humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God in the bereavment which the Church of Scotland has sustained by the death of the Rev. Dr. Robertson, desire to record their profound sense of his great, unwenried, and self-sacrificing labours in seeking to bring the poor and the outcast within the influence of the everlasting Gospel, and they would seek to cherish his memory, as one of the ablest most zealous, and most devoted benefactors of the country and of the Church." second resolution was moved by J. F. Cochran, Esq. of Balfour, and seconded by the Rev. J. M. Lang, Moderator of the Very Rev. the Synod of Aberdeen... That, cherical the Synod of Aberdeen... ishing these feelings, and as the most appropriate and fitting monument to the memory of their departed friend, the meeting pledge themselves and, by God's grace, will seek to quicken others-to renewed exertion for the immediate completion, in this, Dr. Robertson's native province, of that great scheme of Church Endowment which, mainly through his Christian earnestness, genius and zeal, has already received so large a measure of support; and, for this purpose, remit to the Committee of Clergy and Laymen, named at last meeting of the Synod of Aherdeen, to adopt all necessary measures—and with power to add to their number." The third resolution was moved by Sir John Stuart Forbes Bart., and seconded by the Rev. W. Pirie, University, Aberdeen :- "That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to Mrs. Robertson, the widow, and to Mr. Robertson, the father of the deceased, with an expression of the sympathy of the meeting with them under their heavy bereavements." On the motion of William Duguid, Esq., the thanks of the meeting were voted to the Lord Provost for his conduct in the chair.

THE JEWISH FEAST OF TABERNACLES.— The Israelites having concluded their ten days of repentance, which opens the new year, are now brought to a more cheerful and less solemn series of holidays, called "Sukas," or the Feast of the Tabernacles, which began Monday evening, and continue for nine days. The two first days, from Sunday evening to

eles, which are covered with leaves and branches, and the interiors are tastefully ornamented with flowers, carpets, looking-glasses, &c. One of these tabernac es is attached to every synagogue in this country. In European countries there is a tabernacle built in almost every yard contiguous to a Jewish house, where meals are taken during the nine days, and the male members of the family offer up their prayers. It is also the festival of the harvest. Branches of palm trees and citrons are used in the services, for it is commanded that ye shall take the boughs of goodly trees and branches of palm trees, and the willows of the brook, and rejoice before the Lord. The last day is made a day of great rejoicing: it is the feast of the law; for on this day the reading of the five books of Moses is finished. That is to say a portion is read on Saturdays and feast and fast, so that, at the end of the year, the reading of the law is finished, which is the occasion of great rejoicing in a religious way.

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.—The Bombay Quardian reports the triumphant progress of the Gospel in the district of Chota-Negapore. It states that-

Two thousand have already been baptized, or, rather, this was the number some six mouths ago. The number of those who have broken caste, and have applied for baptism, is also very large. Ninety were baptized in January last. A missionary writes that in the neighborhood of Ranchee, the Cospel is spreading like fire in a jungle. As many as eight hundred villages have received the Gospel. So many Kols were pouring into the station from the jungle, that three missionaris were occupied all day in giving them instruction. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal visited the district in January, and was greatly astonished at what he saw. His secretary remarked to the missionaries, "There never was seen such a sight as this." This referred to a gathering of about two thousand native Christians, at which he was present. From the province of Pachette, the Kabreepunthes have presented themselves to the number of forty-six, out of eleven villages, asking for instruction. They say that large bodies of this sect are ready to embrace Christianity. There are six missionaries in the Chota-Nagpore field, who are Germans from the Seminary of Pastor Gossner, at Rerlin. We see it stated that in Lucknow and the surrounding villages, eighty-nine natives have been haptized since the rebellion of 1857.

LONGEVITY OF ANIMALS.—The average age of cats is 15 years; a squirrel and hare, 7 or 8 years; rabbits, 7; a bear rarely exceeds 20 years; a dog lives 20 years; a wolf, 20; a fox, 14 to 16; lions are long-lived;

is commemorated by the building of taberna- I the one known by the name of Pompey lived to the age of 70; elephants have been known, it is asserted, to live to the great age of 400 years. When Alexander the Great had conquered Porus, King of India, he took a great elephant which had fought very valiantly for the King, and named him Ajax, dedicated him to the sun, and let him go with this inscription: "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, Lath dedicated Ajax to the sun." The elephant was found with this incription three hundred and fifty years after. Pigs have been known to live to the age of 30; the rhinoceros to 20; a horse has been known to live to the age of 62, but averages 25 to 30; camels sometimes live to the age of 100; stags are very long-lived; sheep seldom exceed the age of 10; cows live about 15 years. Cuvier considers it probable that whales sometimes live 1000 years; the dolphin and propoise attain the age of 30; an eagle died at Vienna at the age of 104 years: ravens frequently reach the age of 100; swans have been known to live 200 years. Mr. Malterton has the skeleton of a swan that attained the age of 200 years. Pelicans are long-lived; a tortoise has been known to live to the ago of 107.

> COINCIDENCE. -On the day of thank giving for the Reformation, according to the texts furnished by the various newspapers, 41 ministers in the northern counties preached from the text, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad;" 53 from the words, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ bath made us free;" 19 from "The truth shall make you free;" 12 from "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, what mean these stones?" 10 from "And then shall that wicked be reveal ed;" and 6 from "Earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." Some of the other texts appear te have been selected with equal felicity, such as the following: -" And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision;" "Other foundation can no man lay;" "Marvellious things did He in the sight of their fathers;" "The times that went over Him;" "The time of reformation;" "But call to remembrance the former days," &c. &c.,-Northern Ensign.

THE FAMILY OF ATHE LATE MR. BOWL-BY, "TIMES," CORRESPONDENT IN CHINA. The proprietors of the Times have we understand, behaved with the most considerate and large-handed generosity towards the bereaved widow of their martyred correspondent, A handsome pension has been settled on Mrs. Bowlby by the magnates of Printing-House Square, and in addition to this it is to be hoped that she will receive not less than ten

thousand pounds out of the indemnity deodand exacted from the Chinese .- Illustrated News.

THE GREAT EMPIRE.—The Russian census, just completed, gives 79,000,000 as the total population, the women being in excess of the men to the number of 1,750,000. nobles and higher guilds of traders number about 1,000,000, the nobles possessing 21,-000,000 serfs. The lower classes, including serfs, petty traders, and artisans, number 53,-500,000. The population of Siberia, including the wandering tribes of Kasan, Astrakan, and Orenburgh, is 4,000,000.

SECRETARY OF LEGATION AT JAPAN .-The Times says Lord John Russel has offered the new appointment of Secretary of Legation at Japan to Mr. Oliphant, who accompanied Lord Elgin in his first visit to Jeddo, and that Mr. Oliphant has accepted the post.

CHAIR OF CHURCH HISTORY IN UNIVER-SITY OF EDINBURGH.—It is reported that the Rev. Dr Stevenson of South Leith has been nominated to the vacant chair.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

There is an apparent lull in the Secession movement in the United States, without much prospect of either a compromise, or an understanding being come to, by the contending parties. whose views are wide as the poles asunder. We read of men and money, arms and munitions of war being freely voted by the Legislatures of several of the Northern States, to preserve the Federation intact, and put cown treason. On the other hand, although there is less noise and violence of expression in the South, the feeling in favor of Secession can scarcely be said to be modified. It is said that the number of States which have formally left the Union now amounts to five-the last and most important, perhaps, being Louisiana. The action of the Executive, if it intends to enforce the oneness of the Republic, is inexplicably weak. About a dozen forts, and more than a thousand guns, have already been seized by the revolutionary party, who now appear quietly but resolutely

preparing for the struggle.
The decision of the Canadian judges, in the case of the fugitive slave, who killed his pursuer in self-defence, in order to avoid being taken, is universally and strongly condemned by the press of England of every party. is fortunate there is in such cases an appeal to the crown, so that we should think the unfortunate man does not run much risk of being hurned alive, or otherwise tortured to

he death.

We are glad to find that both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the shipbuilding trade is looking up, and large quantities of timber is being sledged to the various yards in both provinces, affording profitable, if temporary employment, to many of the countrypeople who have been suffering severely from the general and long continued depression.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia met on the

31st ult. for the despatch of business.

After a long continuance of open weather we have, for some weeks, been favored with steady and somewhat severe cold, which being preceded by a fall of snow, has afforded sleighing almost in perfection, facilitating the conveyance of timber and produce, which cannot fail to be a great boon to the country

At latest accounts, the cold in England continued very intense, and was producing wide-spread distress, especially in the shipping towns, where all labor is at a stand still, and many thousands were without a meal, or the means of procuring one. The Thames was frozen over, the ice being about a foot thick, and on the canals it is said to have been not less than 15 inches. Neither the duration nor the intensity of the cold has been equalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitant-

The peace with China has been confirmed, and to all appearance will not soon be brok-The Chinese have been completely humbled, and, perhaps for the first time, understand how entirely powerless they are against such a nation as England or France. concessions are very ample. Not only does a British ambassador reside at Pekin, and a Chinese one at London, but all the important ports, and all the inland waters, have been, or are to be, thrown open to foreign commerce. This will be an immense boon equally to Europe and China, and it may be in course of time that the absurd superstitions of this interesting portion of the world may melt away under the benign influence of the Sun of Righteousness.

By a meagre telegram via Australia we learn that a fierce comput has taken place between the English troops and the New Zealand Aborigines, and that the latter have been defeated and dispersed with the loss of their head Chief. This will probably bring hostilities to an end, and we trust that notwithstanding the position they have taken these spirited savages will be generously

dealt with.

The siege of Gaeta drags its slow length A kind of armistice had been agreed to, to last till the 19th ult. when it was expecte I that if the King of Naples refused to come to terms, the French Emperor would permit the Sardinian fleet to open on the strongnold from the sea. Matters continue in a deplorable state throughout Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples, and it will evidently take a long time to bring back peace, order and industry to this distracted country. We

read with no small indignation an account of a circumstance which shows that notwithstanding the change of regime, the old spirit of intolerance and deadly hostility to Protestanism continues to flourish in full vigor at Naples.

Four sailors belonging to one of the English ships of war lying in the Bay of Naples died of small pox, and notwithstanding the efforts of Admiral Mundy, the rite of Christian burial was refused them and they had to be interred almost by stealth on the sea shore. Spain herself could hardly exceed this.

The King of Prussia is dead after a long and hopeless illness, Louis Napoleon has abolished the passport system so far as English men are concerned, in France, which can not fail to be a most acceptable boon to travellers.

LIST OF MONEY RECEIVED SINCE NOVEMBER ISSUE.

Rev. Donald McDonald, P. E. I., £1 16 J. C. Thomson, Quebec, 61 & 62, 0 John McQuarrie, S. Hill, - - - 0 Roberti McLeod, N. L., Robert McLeod, Dalhousie. - - 0 Christy Gordon, Rev. Mr. McLaren, Glasgow, Scotland, on account of P. E. I. list, 2 10 James Macintosh, R. H., -R. S. Findley, Belfast, P. E. I., - H. Cameron, M. T., - - - -Walter Ross, Dalhousie, -D. B. Munro, Wallace, 1 T. Mackenzie, Pugwash, 1 J. Mackay, N. G., for 1860, -1 10 Thomas Macbean, St. Mary's, John Cameron, do., for 1860, A. K. Doull, Halifax, - - -7 19 5 Angus Mackay, R. H., 1 } Donald Stewart, Dal., N. B., William F. Mackay, Gairloch, William Brait, N. B., - - -0 12 D. Colquhoan, M. T., - -D. Cameron, H. H., --- 0 3 J. Mackay, Esquire, for St. Mary's, 0 11 1 * do. for New Glasgow in full, for 1861, - - -Mer. and Big Cove, do., 2 13 do. 1* Churchville, do. do., 1 1* do. M. River, do., 0 15 do. Albion Mines, do., 2 13 do. Foreign parts, do., 0 R. Mackenzie, wid's son, W.B.R.J., 0 do., 0 15 Alexander Mackenzie, S. S., - - 0 D. Fraser, Belfast, P. E. Island, A. Macgregor, B. Isl. Merigomish, 0 1 * M. Macgregor, do., for 1860, John Cameron, B. R., -Margaret Smith, I. R., Donald Mackay, do., -3 0 1* T. Gibson, Montreal, . -0 15

W. Macleod, R. J. R.,

John Grey, W. B. E. R.,	- 2	13	1*
D. Mackay, Hardwood Hill, -	. 0	12	6
John Ross, W. B. R. J.,	- 0	3	1.
Robert Ross, do.,	- 0	3	1•
D. Macleod for 1860, do.,	- ŏ	2	6
John Mackay for 1860, do.,	. 0	$ar{2}$	6
			-
A. Strumberg, R. J.,	•	3	1*
W. C. Watson, St. John's, N. B.	, 1	2	6
John Mickie Goose River	- 1	0	0
William Gordon, Pictou,	- 6	1	10.
TTT::::	. 0	3	1.
David Ross Mackenzie, B. R.,	. 0	3	1.
James Berry, W. R.,	- 0	1	10*
A. Cameron, R. John,	. 0	8	8
S. Mackenzie, Carriboo River.	. 0	3	1 •
George Macleod, Esq., M. R.,	- 0	3	1*
	. 0	3	1*
Charles Fraser, Durham,	. 0	3	1*
Hector Macleod, R. H.,	. 0	3	1.
J. Mackenzie, Spring Point,	0	3	1 *
Peter Grant, Toney River,	Ö.	3	į.
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Roderick Mackenzie, R. H.,	v	3	1.

1861. YOUNG MEN'S SCHEME.

Jan., V	Vest Branch	E. R. Cong.,	£3	12	3
Col.	Roger's Hill	Congregation,	3.	3	G
"	Cape John	"	1	9.	6
"	Pugwash	"	1	11	5
"	Wallace	66	1	8	9:
Don	10	0	0		
Collection West B. River John,				19	9
			_		

£22 5

1861. MISSIONARY SERVICES.

Jan., Collection Earltown Cong'n, £4 8 1 " East River, St. Mary's, 3 17 6

£8 5 7

W. GORDON, Treasurer

Pictou, Jany. 29th, 1861.

We regret that we made a mistake with Sutherland's River in charging them with 50s, which had been paid last year.

The Committee beg to acknowledge one, pound donation towards their funds from the Rev. Alexander McKay, Salt Springs.

WM. JACK. Sec'y & Treasurer.

We are willing to allow agents a commission to the extent of forwarding six copies for the price of five; or we will send ten copies for 5 dollars. Single copies, 3s. 1 1-2d.

dollars. Single copies, 3s. 11-2d.
All communications intended for publication to be addressed to John Costley, Pictou Academy: letters on business to be addressed to Mr. William Jack.

Printed and published for the proprietors, on the first and third Saturday of each month, by S. H. Holmes, Standard Office, Pictou