

It is to be regretted, that no effective measures have been taken to plant the Presbyterian Church in that fine tract of country, known as the Eastern Townships. The population, if animated by a vigorous evangelical Protestantism, could not but exert a favourable influence on the habitans in their neighbourhood. But, at present, it is impossible to deny that the low standard of morals, and the too prevalent indifference of some nominal Protestants, the fanaticism of others, and the universalism of others, go far to confirm the French Canadian people in their belief, that the Protestants have no religion at all. If we would be the Presbyterian Church of Canada, attention must, in future, be more carefully directed to this field. The congregations of Leeds and St. Sylvester, have obtained regular supply, and now enjoy the prospect of a settled ministry. The congregation at Inverness, standing firm under long trials, now seek the services of a minister, at present within the Presbytery of London.—The Rev. Mr. Gordon, ordained missionary, continues among the Highlanders at Lingwick. The Rev. Ewen Maclean, probationer, devotes himself to Melbourne and adjoining stations, with special charge of the Highland emigrants. Mr. McConochy has served faithfully as Catechist at Henrieville. The Presbyterians of the Missisquoi District have been much neglected, and every year's delay renders it more difficult for the Church to reach and reclaim them.

Further westward, on the south side of the St. Lawrence, the settlements, during the year of Mr. Troup at English River, and Mr. Swinton at St. Louis de Gonzague and North Georgetown, have relieved some pressing claims. But various important Stations in that part of the country are without any supply—to wit—Chateauguy Basin, Beaulieu, La Guerre, Dundee.

Crossing to the north shore, we find that nothing has been done for our adherents at Rawdon and L'Assomption—if we except one or two visits from members of Presbytery. The people of St. Eustache and Grande Fremere, are most anxious to call a minister, being quite weary of the system of precarious supply. Our faithful adherents then are entitled to encouragement and sympathy.

The condition of our Church at Glengarry, fills our minds with anxiety. It is evident that there is yet room in that district for the labors of two or three active and prudent missionaries; and, we are not without fear, that unless prompt measures be adopted, to overtake the spiritual destitution of the people, they will relapse into a godless apathy, or break up into factions and parties with most disastrous results. There are, perhaps, few more pressing and difficult tasks before our Church's face at this moment, than the spiritual superintendence of her people in Glengarry.

This brief report cannot be closed without an expression of respect and love for the memory of two devoted friends of Home Missions, who, during the past year, have fallen asleep—to wit—the late Convener of the Presbytery's Mission Committee, the Rev. William Rintoul, whose knowledge of the missionary field, combined with a long-tryed missionary zeal, rendered his services in this department of high value to the Presbytery of Montreal, and to the Church at large, and the late Treasurer of the Committee, James Ramsay Orr, Esq., a noble embodiment of unwearied diligence and unsparing beneficence, in every Christian enterprise.

D. FRASER,
Convener H. M. Committee,
Pres. of Montreal.

JUNE 8, 1852.

EXTRACTS FROM THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSION TO THE COLOURED POPULATION AT BUXTON.

While on our part there is much cause for humiliation and self-abasement, there is reason for praise and thanksgiving to God for his favour to the mission during the year.

At the commencement of the mission some doubted whether access could be had to the minds of the coloured population. Many benevolent people said, that any attempt to improve either their social or moral condition, would be only a useless waste of talent, time, and money.—Hence they did nothing to aid in the work.

To change public sentiment on this subject will require more than reason. Nothing short of successful experiment will do it. It is not necessary to answer every possible objection that may be urged against the religious improvement of the coloured people before we begin. It is enough for every one who feels an interest in the extension of Christ's kingdom, to know, that there are upwards of thirty thousand coloured persons in the Province who are perishing for lack of knowledge, and who are willing to receive that Gospel which we are commanded "to preach to every creature," in order to make an immediate effort to supply them with that knowledge "which maketh wise unto salvation."

In prosecuting the work during the past year, nothing has occurred to mar the harmony of our proceedings. We have been endeavouring silently to perfect the plan of our operations.—Since last report a number of families have moved into the settlement, increasing both the attendance at church and day school. There are at present in the settlement about ninety families, containing between three and four hundred souls. Some of these are from the United States, but many of them have moved in from different parts of the Province.

There is a growing desire in the coloured race, especially those who have been living for some time in Canada, to obtain a good education for their children. And as prejudice in many places excludes them from the common schools, many who can sell their property without a sacrifice, do so, and move into the Elgin settlement, with the view of getting the benefit of our school. From this cause the population is composed more of families who have resided some time in Canada, than of fugitives from the United States; the latter class generally remain in the frontier towns.—At present there are not more than three thousand fugitives in the Province, while the resident coloured population cannot be less than thirty thousand. These mostly reside in the West, and are endeavouring to support themselves by their own industry. Such as are steady and economical, will, in a short time, provide themselves comfortable homes.

At L. on, we endeavored, as far as possible, to prevent drunkenness and Sabbath desecration. Although no Temperance Society has been formed, yet the total abstinence principle has been rigidly observed; no intoxicating drinks are used at any of their gatherings, nor has there been seen, during the past two years, a single case of drunkenness in the settlement. Although all do not attend Church regularly, yet, nearly all attend to the outward observance of the Lord's day. In September last, the Lord's Supper was dispensed, for the first time at the Mission, by Dr. Willis, who preached and presided on the occasion; Mr. King, the missionary, acting as elder. It was a time of refreshing to all. Eight members belonging to the settlement, besides a number from the churches in Tilbury and Chatham, sat down at the Lord's table. For want of room in the house, the services were conducted in a grove adjoining the Mission premises. It was delightful to see the settlers gathering from the bush on the Sabbath morn; and refreshing to hear the voice of prayer and praise ascend from the forest, where, a few years ago, all was stillness and solitude.—

The attendance at church depends much on the state of the weather, varying from one hundred to one hundred and forty. There appears to be among all a growing desire for the word and ordinances, but more particularly in the Bible Class, which is composed of those who are regular in their attendance at church. The Sabbath School has increased con-

siderably during the past year; there are, at present, fifty-three enrolled, and their numbers are increasing.

Mr. John Straith, from Knox's College, Toronto, who has charge at present of the day-school, and who superintends the Sabbath School, has succeeded in obtaining a number of male and female teachers from the young people in the neighborhood, who have kindly consented to take classes in the school. A want of teachers in this department is a difficulty which has been hitherto felt, there being but one, and at most only two teachers to attend to all the classes. This want has now been supplied, and the result is, an increased attendance at the school. The attendance at the day-school is also steady and on the increase; the number on the roll is seventy-three, about twenty of these are the children of white parents, who send to the Mission school, there being no other school in the neighborhood.

With the view of carrying out one of the objects of the Mission, the training up of a native agency, a Latin class was formed last November, consisting of six African youths, who have made considerable progress, and appear to be no way deficient in point of intellect, in acquiring the language. The hope is entertained, with the blessing of God, to have some of these youths prepared for the college, and, we trust, that the school will be one of the fountains that will send forth healing waters to Africa. The Treasurer will report on the financial state of the Mission, which will require to be placed on a more efficient and permanent basis.

In November last, Mr. King visited the United States, with the view of awakening an interest in the Mission, and, if possible, obtaining co-operation in aiding to support it. His object was not so much to collect funds, as to form Associations that would act permanently in future. As the season was too far advanced for travelling, he was only able to visit a few places in Michigan, and one in Illinois. All the members of the Association formed in Chicago, feel a lively interest in our operations. The coloured inhabitants of that city, presented a complete set of Mitchell's Outline Maps, for the day school, also a beautiful map of Palestine for the Sabbath School.

In reviewing the past, grateful thanks are due to God for his goodness vouchsafed. The health of the station has, in general, been good, and the progress in all departments gradual and steady.

All communications connected with the Record to be addressed to JOHN BURNS, Esq., Knox's College, Toronto.

The Record.

TORONTO, JULY, 1852.

THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE—SUGGESTIONS OF THE CONVENER.

We have always looked upon the Report of the Home Mission Committee as one of the most important documents connected with the Church. Missionaries collect reminiscences of their field of labour. Statistics and facts along with their suggestions, will furnish to the Presbyteries the means of giving a full account of the missionary field within their bounds. The Report of Presbyteries will enable the Convener of the Committee to prepare a full account, of the extent and condition of the whole missionary ground of the Church.

In the absence of all, or nearly all, these several reports, the Convener was unable to furnish such a return as he desired; but the place of the