

country places, where our Ministers may be to whole neighbourhoods the only ones of any denomination, and whose services are required no longer, as they ought ever to be, simply as Ministers of Jesus Christ, but as of a particular party. Besides there are difficulties to be met with in the building of Churches and Manses, in the formation of Kirk Sessions, Libraries, Sabbath Schools, &c., that require the wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove combined with forbearance and meekness in believing all things, hoping all things, bearing all things, and enduring all things.

While then we feel assured of the great service rendered to the Church by affording short sketches of Historical interest to her Congregations, we would respectfully call upon our friends, Lay and Clerical throughout the Province, to furnish us with communications under this head. It cannot be questioned that great ignorance prevails among the Members of the Canadian branch of the Scottish Church on the state of the Congregations beyond their immediate neighbourhood; and it is in this way that information can be conveyed not only of the localities and numbers of Congregations, and the present, compared with the past, lack of Ministers, but of the difficulties, as well as the cheering prospects, in the way of doing good.

We are happy to say that we have been promised an account of the Churches of Beauharnois, seven or eight in number, by a friend long resident in the county, and intimately acquainted with the several points of interest connected with them; the first article of which will appear in our next.

It may perhaps be in the recollection of some of our readers, that in September last the Rev. Mr. Gilchrist, Minister of Dunbog, Fifeshire, paid a short visit to his brethren in this Province, and preached with great acceptance to several of their congregations. With permission of his Presbytery Mr. Gilchrist exchanged pastoral labours with his friend, Mr. Halket of St. John's, N. B., who desired to return for a short time to Scotland. At the termination of his engagement Mr. Gilchrist made a tour in Canada and the United States; and we are grateful to perceive that, since his return to his native land, he is endeavouring to make his personal knowledge of the affairs of the Colonial Church, have a practical bearing in their favour on the minds of his brethren in Scotland. We would rejoice to see such exchanges becoming frequent. In many ways, we think, they would be beneficial. The following extract from a report of the proceedings of the Presbytery of Cupar, we are persuaded, will be read with delight:—

COLONIAL CHURCHES.

Mr. Cochran said, he was very glad again to see with them his excellent friend Mr. Gilchrist, safely returned across the Atlantic from his visit to America.

They had also the satisfaction of knowing that Mr. Gilchrist's parish had been admirably supplied in his absence; in fact, nearly as well as if he had been himself officiating all along. Mr. Gilchrist had returned with redoubled vigour to prosecute his labours in his own parish, and with much instructive information about the affairs of the Church of Scotland across the sea. He was perfectly sure that a statement from Mr. Gilchrist on this subject would be both interesting and acceptable to the Presbytery.

Mr. Gilchrist said, that, although it was two months since he had returned from America, yet, as this was the first meeting of Presbytery which had occurred since, he took this public opportunity of returning his warmest thanks to his brethren for the permission which they had so kindly given him to exchange for a time his own pulpit for one on the other side of the Atlantic. More especially he had to thank those neighbours who so kindly supplied his place during the interval between Mr. Halket's departure from Dunbog and his own return. Whilst he had spent the season of his absence very pleasantly, and, he trusted, profitably both to himself and to those amongst his countrymen on the other side of the Atlantic, his place at home had been most ably supplied. So well pleased, indeed, were the people of Dunbog with the services of his substitute that they presented him at his departure with a testimonial of their regard; and he had every reason to believe that his own services had been equally acceptable on the other side if he might judge from the offers made to him to return. Nothing could have been better timed than his visit to St. John's. When he landed there, he found himself in the midst of a large Scotch population, amongst whom he had been the means of keeping up the religious ordinances to which they had been accustomed; the nearest Scotch minister on the one hand being sixty or seventy miles distant, and the nearest on the other ninety miles. It might give them some idea of how their countrymen were scattered over the vast provinces of America, when he stated that he had frequently baptized children brought twenty, thirty, and on one occasion sixty miles for the purpose. From what he observed he must say that the Church had been very remiss in its duty towards the Colonies. There were large and flourishing congregations on the other side of the Atlantic connected with our Church, and many devoted friends—friends who had remained true to their cause amidst all the obloquy that had been cast upon them; and their enemies had not been sparing of their abuse on the other side of the Atlantic any more than on this. He knew of few men better entitled to their regard than their Colonial brethren; many amongst them for talents and zeal would do credit to any Church upon earth; and they should manifest, not by words but by deeds, that they still regarded them as brethren, and it could not be denied that they needed all their countenance and encouragement. Scattered, as they were, over these immense countries, they had not those opportunities for friendly intercourse and brotherly counsel which the brethren at home enjoyed, and which served so much to lighten their labours. Nor, he feared, did their Colonial brethren always meet with that assistance and sympathy from their flocks to which they were entitled. Mr. Gilchrist then alluded to the fact, that it was but seldom that the second generation of Scottish colonists, surrounded, as they were, on all hands by other denominations, adhered to the religion of their fathers. For himself he must say that he had enjoyed his visit to America very much, and had returned greatly recruited in health and strength. He experienced everywhere the utmost kindness—kindness of which he would ever retain a grateful recollection. He was more particularly pleased with what he met with in the United States. He found everywhere there that to be a minister of "The Kirk" was a passport to their good offices, and to their pulpits. He therefore trusted that this interchange would be but the first of many similar ones between his brethren here and his brethren in the Colonies. The distance between Scotland and America was no doubt as great as ever, but the time required to accomplish the distance was now very trifling. Any one of them might preach on Sunday in his own pulpit and on that day fortnight do duty in Halifax, and during the intervening Sunday he needs not be

if he feels inclined to work. He himself preached on the Sabbath on his passage home, and seldom felt more interest in any service than when they met together on the mighty deep to worship their God; and he had seldom seen a more attentive audience than those assembled in the saloon of the steamer in the middle of the Atlantic. Mr. Gilchrist then alluded to the beauty of the countries which he visited as compared with the scenery of Europe. "I have seen both. I have sailed on the Danube and the Elbe, the Rhine and the Rhone; but not one of them all, in point of natural beauty, surpasses the Hudson, and they are, one and all, but streamlets in size compared with the St. Lawrence. I have seen a good deal of what is reckoned the finest scenery in Europe; but I have seen nothing more picturesque than the view from the battlements of Quebec, and nothing which produced on me the same overpowering effects as when I stood on Table Rock and gazed at the mighty avalanche of Niagara, whilst I was deafened by its thunder and wet by its spray." Mr. Gilchrist concluded by expressing his trust that such interchanges as that which he was proud to have commenced would be of frequent occurrence.

Mr. Forbes moved that the Presbytery record a vote of thanks to Mr. Gilchrist for his interesting statement.

FRENCH PROTESTANT MISSION.

We continue to give a few Extracts from the Interim Report on the French Mission, presented to the Synod by the Convener. But, first of all, we would call the attention of Ministers and Congregations to the repeated injunctions of the Rev. Court, that "*Ministers bring the claims of this interesting and important Mission before their Congregations; and afford them an opportunity of contributing towards its support.*"

Besides the general letter of commendation to the Church of Scotland's Committee on Colonial Churches (printed in our last No.), M. Lapelletrie was also furnished with letters to several influential Ministers both in Britain and the Continent of Europe. From these we select the following Extracts, as tending to show what the opinion of the Acting Committee at that time was respecting the position and prospects of this Mission:—

Rev. and Dear Sir,

By the accompanying papers you will perceive that the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, lately formed a French Protestant Church in this city, composed of a few French Canadian families, and have been favoured with many proofs that the Great Head of the Church has approved of their efforts, by crowning their labours with some measure of success. The scheme is yet in its infancy, and to many it seems to hold forth the lamp of truth too feebly to contend with the surrounding darkness, superstition, and ignorance; and certainly we would despair, were we not convinced that it is the Lord's work, and that He will make His own power to appear in His own good time, from the very feebleness of the instrument employed. We have been blessed in our Chief Agent, M. ———, with a man, though young in years, of considerable prudence, and Christian love and zeal. And with our "little strength" we have been able still to maintain the ground which we have assumed; and, we hope, have even made some little progress. But the field of labour is wide, far beyond our resources, and our instruments. We are confident that the first will increase, "for the gold is mine, saith the Lord." If we have only a sufficient number of faithful servants of God, acting in unison under a well digested scheme