

of a missionary, and the obtaining of a sum requisite for his support. After several meetings, spent in solemn deliberation and prayer, we decided on establishing a mission, and chose Mr. Black, one of our students, as our missionary; and in order that he might prepare himself for the work, by acquiring a knowledge of the French language, he was sent, at the close of the session, to Pointe aux Trembles, the establishment of the French Canadian Missionary Society. At the opening of the present session, he returned to Toronto, and is now with us finishing his theological course. We have already said that doubts were entertained respecting our ability to raise a sum adequate to the support of the mission. That such doubts were groundless has now been sufficiently proved. The sum which we proposed to raise was £100; and it was found, at the opening of the session, that the contributions collected by the students during the summer amounted to upwards of £131. The Lord gave the people a heart to offer willingly, and we succeeded much beyond our expectations.

As we are desirous that our brother Mr. Black, should have a complete knowledge of the French language, and should be able to speak it with perfect facility before entering on his important work, several months must yet elapse before he is prepared to proceed to the contemplated field of missionary labour.

While we are thus preparing to send the gospel to our ignorant fellow-subjects in a distant part of the country, we are also endeavouring to foster practical religion among our fellow-citizens. We have commenced a city mission, in which every student is a labourer. The city has been divided into a certain number of districts, to each of which four students have been appointed, to work jointly in distributing tracts, and establishing and maintaining prayer-meetings. As we have not sufficient strength to overtake all the city, we confine our attention chiefly to the more destitute parts of it. The work of tract distribution is performed once a fortnight, on Saturday afternoons; and the prayer-meetings are held weekly, on the day most convenient to the parties concerned.

We have thus given you a brief account of the present state of our College, and of our missionary operations; and now, brethren, before closing our letter, permit us to plead a little with you on behalf of our destitute country. We earnestly hope that some of you will be led to give yourselves to the service of God in this land. From no part of the world is the cry, "come over and help us," more loudly raised than from Canada, and from no part ought it to be more quickly responded to by you. It comes from your own countrymen—from those who were wont to go up to the house of God, with the multitude, in your own cities or rural parishes, and listen to the word of God poured forth from lips touched with "a live coal from off the altar," and who now find themselves exiled in the back woods of this Province, where the glad tidings of the kingdom of God are seldom heard. Once they drank of the refreshing streams of grace with which the Lord was pleased to bless their native land, but now their souls languish "in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is." Their present state of mind, also, is exceedingly interesting and hopeful. Many of them, a few years ago, were sunk in a state of spiritual stupor, into which they had fallen, partly through the destitution of the means of grace, and partly through the deadening influence of moderateism. But the shock caused by the separation of the Free Church from the Establishment has aroused them from their slumber, and opened their eyes to the poverty of their state. There is now a general anxiety to hear the word—a general thirsting for evangelical truth. The cry for missionary labourers is heard from almost every part of the country. The members of vacant congregations who are at present left as sheep without a shepherd, are anxiously waiting for pastors to care for their souls. In some places there are spiritual awakenings. Jesus is sending the promise of his Father upon his people. If it might be the will of the Lord now to send forth faithful preachers of the Cross, we might expect a rich harvest to be gathered in. But if the

expecting minds that are now thirsting for divine knowledge should be neglected, they may soon sink back into a state of indifference. The condition of the people is perilous as well as hopeful. There are not the same external restraints from wickedness, and incentives to piety, in this country as in Scotland. The tone of society is not so decidedly religious, and there are greater temptations to a worldly spirit. Besides, this is the country of speculation in religion as well as in commerce. There is a freedom and independency of mind, which, if not properly directed, will speedily run into the snares of scepticism. Even at the present time, the country not only abounds with heresies, such as Arminianism, Puseyism, Universalism, Millerism, and the heresies of the Romish Church, but is, to an alarming extent, affected by the principles of absolute infidelity. The Bible is not only perverted by many who profess to receive it as the Word of God, but is treated by others with daring contempt, and its divine authority denied. Those who are natives of Britain, and who were in their early days trained up in the principles of the Word of God, still manifest a respect for religion; but in many instances their children are being carried away by the general influence of ungodliness, and are growing up in the utmost indifference to their eternal interests. Come then, dear brethren, to the help of the Lord in this land. Let the relation in which our Church stands to you, the present interesting and hopeful condition of the country, and the dangers to which it is exposed, influence you to hasten to our aid. We have it not in our power to bribe you with temporal advantages. We cannot promise you manes, glebes, and large stipends; but we can assure you of abundance of labour under the easy yoke of the Lord Jesus. And you know who hath said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." And again, "Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or land, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life." We trust, brethren, that there are none among you who would preach Jesus with other objects in view than the glory of his Cross, and the salvation of souls. If there are such, we hope that they will be restrained from coming to Canada. But come those of you in whom God has revealed his Son; who have been "separated unto the gospel of God;" and who will not merely be able to say, "we preach Christ crucified," but also, "we are crucified with Christ." Such as have ability to preach in Gaelic, will find a wide field of usefulness here. There is a large portion of the Gaelic population destitute of the means of grace; and though those who compose it are grateful for an occasional sermon in English, yet they are thirsting intensely for the word of life in their own native language. Among this class of people, especially, the Lord is already giving an increase to the labours of the Free Church deputies; and were men of a similar spirit to give themselves to the cause of Christ in these Provinces, we doubt not that the Lord would give them many souls for a joy and a crown. Dear brethren, may the Lord direct the way of some of you to us, and bless you all with a mind determined not to know anything, "save Jesus Christ and him crucified."

Seeing that we have undertaken to support a missionary of our own, you will not expect the same degree of assistance in maintaining your esteemed missionary, Mr. Braidwood. But as an evidence that our interest in that which interests you, has not diminished with our ability to assist you, and that we regard the cause of the Redeemer in the East and West as one, we enclose a draft for the small sum of £5 sterling.

Signed, in the name of the Association.

ROBERT URE, President.
JOHN SCOTT, Secretary.

NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,
2nd March, 1848.

DEAR BRETHREN.—We hasten to acknowledge your kind letter of December 29th, and to express

the high gratification which its perusal afforded us. It is very refreshing to hear of the progress of the Lord's work in all places of his dominion—of those tokens which the Great Head of the Church is ever giving of his continued interest in his people, in the fulfilment of his precious promise,—"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." It were enough surely to render our intercourse both sweet and profitable, though there had existed no mutual ties or sympathies between us but those which result from our common Christianity. Even in that case, it would be our duty to "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works;" and the faithful and affectionate discharge of such a duty could not fail to carry with it its own reward. And is not the duty rendered at once far more imperative and far more delightful, when, besides having "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," we are also knit together by those natural bonds of brotherhood, which distance should serve only to strengthen?

We were extremely glad to hear of the increase of your number, and the general prosperity of the College; and we have little doubt that the appointment of so able a Theologian as Dr. Willis to the Divinity Chair will still further elevate its position and add to its efficiency. But what is even more interesting and instructive to us as members of a Missionary Association, is the account you give us of your personal exertions in the work of the Lord, and of the signal success with which your plan for the support of a missionary among the French Canadians has already been crowned. Of this most benevolent purpose, and of the energetic spirit in which it has been carried out, there can be but one opinion in the minds of those who have any compassion for the souls of their fellow-men. Nor would we feel at all disposed to rank ourselves among the number of those, who would look with a cold and jealous eye upon your own personal labours, whether in supplying the bread of life to those who are hungering after it, or in creating that blessed appetite in those, who, though insensible to their necessities, are yet perishing for lack of knowledge; for, though study is undoubtedly for the present our main and primary business (of which we feel assured that you are as fully sensible as we), yet there are many advantages to be obtained by judiciously combining practical with intellectual training for the work of the ministry. And it would argue little zeal for God's glory and man's salvation, were we able altogether to hold our peace, and see souls going down to perdition around us, without our making a single effort to avert their doom. We agree with you in thinking that certain circumstances may render a departure from strict Presbyterian order justifiable, and that, so far as we at this distance can form any estimate, the circumstances in which you are placed are evidently such. We therefore heartily wish you God-speed. Our earnest prayers on your behalf is—that the Lord whom ye serve would pour out upon you the spirit "of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"—that he would greatly bless your present labours, giving you even now to reap the first-fruits of a future and abundant harvest. We are all, with few exceptions, engaged, to a greater or less extent, in work of a similar nature; but we very much fear that, when compared with your multiplied and systematic labours, our feeble and unfrequent efforts would shrink into insignificance.

The very large sum which you have been enabled to raise for the support of your own missionary, is a most pleasing evidence of your zeal and heartiness in the work you have undertaken, and holds out high promise of your ultimate success. We may well draw reproof and encouragement from your example. For your farther and unexpected liberality in subscribing £5 to the Braidwood Fund, after having yourselves embarked in a similar enterprise, you have our most grateful acknowledgments.

You will most probably be surprised to learn, that at a general meeting of the Association, held about the commencement of the current session, it was resolved, almost unanimously, that the pecuniary connection which had hitherto subsisted between us and Mr. Braidwood should be discontinued.