

ing extract that for the erection of a Church they will require very considerable assistance, as of the £200 requisite for that purpose, £60 is the utmost that can be raised in the settlement itself.

It is matter of very serious regret to the committee that their information with respect to this district, as well as many others, should be so meagre. Presbyterianism has done comparatively little for this fine section of the country, and it is more owing to the attachment of Scotchmen to the faith and forms of worship of their fathers, than to the fostering care of the Presbyterian Church, that so many are still within her pale.—The cause of vital religion is in many cases extremely low. Would that the shower of Divine influence, which has fallen at Salmon River, were to extend over the whole of the missionary field. How soon would the dry ground become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water!

Between the Eastern Townships and Montreal, lies the District of Chambly. It is one of the oldest French settlements, and the great mass of its population, as in the other Districts of Lower Canada, are Papists. Lately, however, nominal protestants have settled in various portions of it—banished themselves from pure religious ordinances, and, in not a few instances, intermarried with Popish families, and their children have gradually been drawn totally into communion with the Romish Church. The labors of a faithful itinerating Missionary would be of great service in a District such as this, both for the sake of those who are falling away, and those who, however desirous, have seldom the opportunity of hearing the gospel preached in purity.

From Sorel, a considerable village in this District, an application was several years ago received for a Presbyterian Minister, by the Presbytery of Montreal, in connection with the Church of Scotland. The application proved fruitless, and, after several years a Congregationalist minister has lately been ordained in that locality.

At Three Rivers, a town on the North bank of the St. Lawrence, half-way between Montreal and Quebec, a minister has lately been settled, in connection with the Establishment in Scotland.

WESTERN DISTRICT

This District, which is to the West of the Eastern Townships contains a large number of Presbyterian settlers. Although the committee have had repeated requests for visits from Free Church ministers and missionaries, they have never been able either to grant these requests, or to ascertain with accuracy the state of the District. Some idea of the extent of the field may be inferred from the fact that, previous to 1843, two Presbyterian ministers found constant and active employment in the District. One of these, the Rev. Henry Taylor, left an extensive sphere of labor, for Scotland, and a living in the Establishment; the other, the Rev. Mr. Simpson, is now removed to Lachine, and settled there as pastor of the congregation in connection with the Church of Scotland.

There are no fewer than five stations, where, had we missionaries, an opportunity could at once be steadily obtained of preaching the everlasting Gospel. These are, Phillipburg, Cowan's Mill, Caldwell's Manor, Henryville, St. John's.

The people are both able and willing to support the Gospel ministry, if it be established amongst them. A correspondent from Henryville states, "It is not a famine of bread and a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of life that the people are afflicted with." "We find," he says, "forty-seven families here, favourable to the Free Church, (about 250 souls) though many of them are in a declining state; for want of spiritual superintendence: many of them have lived here these twenty years, without a preached gospel.

DISTRICT OF MONTREALS.

Beauchirge, a Gaelic settlement, about 25 miles from Montreal, is the first settlement in this District which claims our attention. The congregation at this place, though numbering 400 to 500 souls, has been allowed a remain long destitute, and the people generally are in a lifeless state.—The missionary committee have as yet been unable to give any services in Gaelic to this station; but they trust soon to be able to do so. There is at present a minister in connection with the Establishment supplying the station, but, as he is unable to speak Gaelic, we believe it only requires

the presence of a Free Church Gaelic minister to render it unnecessary for the other to remain in the settlement.

Some idea may be formed of the importance of this District, from the fact that there are no fewer than six ministers connected with the Scottish Establishment within its bounds. The missionary committee, however, feel warranted in making the assertion that had they the services of missionaries, in connection with the Free Church at their disposal, the great mass of the Presbyterians in this District would gladly enter into connection with the true church of their fathers.

At North Georgetown the adherents to the protesting Synod have a church, and are anxiously desirous of obtaining the services of a Free Church minister. A congregation of from 400 to 500 could speedily be gathered at the station. The congregation of adherents to our Synod at these stations last year, sent a call to the Rev. Wm. Leshman, now pastor of the St. Gabriel street Church, Montreal. They are still without supply.

At Beauharnois, Dundee, Lagure, Durham, St. Louis, and at Chateauguay Basin, there are settlements of Presbyterians, and at each and all of them there are many warm adherents to the principles of our Free Church. At some of these stations, where ministers in connection with the Establishment are settled, several members of their congregations have withdrawn themselves from the communion of the Church, under the expectation that ere long ministers will be sent to break among them the bread of life, and afford them an opportunity of forming themselves into congregations in connection with the protesting Synod.

On the north bank of the river St. Lawrence, to the north-east of the Island of Montreal there are two stations—Rawdon and L'Ascension—at the respective distances from Montreal of 40 and 25 miles. They are Presbyterian settlements, but have been long neglected. For several years previous to the summer of 1845, they had been totally without supply from the Presbyterian Church. During that summer, Mr. Gray, one of the theological students in the Toronto Institution, resided in that quarter, and acted for five months in the capacity of a missionary catechist. Since he returned to Toronto, these settlements have not been visited.

Behind the Island of Montreal are situated the two stations of Grand Frenier and St. Eustache. At St. Eustache there is a minister, in connection with the Establishment, but he has been deserted by almost all his flock. The greater portion of the united congregation of these two stations are resident at Grand Frenier. They have been without a settled pastor for four or five years, dependent during that time on the occasional visits of Free Church ministers, and the monthly supply given by the members of Presbytery. Mr. R. Swinton, one of the theological students of the Toronto Institution, has lately been appointed to the station as missionary catechist for the summer.

Passing by, without remark, St. Therese and Lachine, over the congregations at which the Rev. David Black and the Rev. Thomas Henry are ordained; and, ascending the Ottawa River, we find Chatham on the north bank, a station at which the Rev. Mr. Marr, a minister in connection with the Scottish Establishment, regularly officiates. The locality is noted as being in every religious point of view in a deplorable condition. With the statistics of this settlement the committee are not conversant, as they have never hitherto been able to send any missionaries to that quarter.

Between the rivers St. Lawrence and Ottawa, is the District of Vandeuil. In a religious point of view its condition is somewhat similar to that of the District of Chambly, already referred to. The great mass of the inhabitants of the District are Papists; but in various localities there are settlements of Protestants. According to the Parliamentary census, taken in 1841, there were 15,467 adherents of the Church of Rome, and 1543 professing Protestants in the District. The majority of the Protestants are represented to be Presbyterians. Some years ago a missionary station was organized in this District, in connection with the Presbyterian Church. From the want of missionaries it was subsequently abandoned. There are some localities at present in this District where a visit from a minister of the Free Church would be hailed with great pleasure, and we trust, if favoured with more missionary labourers, to be able

shortly to communicate fuller and more satisfactory information with respect to this field.

DISTRICT OF GLENGARRY.

Thus, the most densely-peopled Presbyterian District within the bounds of this Presbytery, next claims our attention.

The station of Vauclerkhill, at the northeast end of the District, contains a large Presbyterian population, warmly attached to the principles of the Free Church. A majority of the people speak the Gaelic language. The place of worship contains 150, but as the attendance on the ministry of a Free Church clergyman would much exceed that number, it is proposed to enlarge the present building.

Lochiel, the most important station in Glengarry, is 8 miles west of Vauclerkhill. The Rev. Mr. McIsaac lately left this charge, and a flock of 2000 souls, for Scotland, and now enjoys a living in the Establishment. The Rev. John Fraser, when on a recent visit to Glengarry, preached at Lochiel to a congregation estimated at 1,600 persons, and all the services held by Free Church ministers at the station, have been most eagerly attended by large audiences. This important station, however, is wholly destitute, and has had (in common, indeed, with the majority of the stations in Glengarry,) no more permanent arrangement made to supply its destitution than the valuable assistance given by the Free Church deputies, in their short and passing visits, and the occasional assistance which the Rev. Daniel Clark, of Kenyon and Indian Lands, is enabled to bestow.

Kenyon and Indian Lands are under the pastoral care of the Rev. Daniel Clark, the only minister in Glengarry who joined the protesting Synod.—The number of people connected with these congregations is great.

The stations of Martintown, Williamstown, and Lancaster, come next in order, closely adjoining, but each forming the centre of a dense Presbyterian and Gaelic-speaking population, and each furnishing an ample field for the labours of an energetic and faithful minister. The ministers stationed at these important places all adhered to the Establishment at the disruption; but we have the most satisfactory evidence that there is only a mere fraction of the people that sympathize with them, and that of the thousands of the Presbyterian population, the great majority have either already declared their attachment to Free Church principles and adherence to the protesting Synod, or are quite prepared to do so.

In the town of Cornwall, which forms also a most important station, a number of the congregation have withdrawn from the communion of the Establishment minister there, and now wait anxiously for the settlement of a Free Church minister, under whose superintendence they could be organized into a distinct congregation.

Dalhousie Mills is another station, at which a numerous congregation would regularly attend. It is 20 miles distant from Lancaster. The Rev. Mr. Sinclair lately resigned this charge, and returned to Scotland, to seek a living in the Establishment. At a meeting of the congregation of Dalhousie Mills, called by the Presbytery of Glengarry, in connection with the Establishment in Scotland, for the purpose of electing a successor to Mr. Sinclair, we learn that only 25 persons were present. The Rev. John Fraser, who a few days subsequently, and at a very short notice, visited the settlement, had a week-day meeting of 600 persons.

Finch is a station about 25 miles from Martintown, with a Gaelic population of 500 persons.—The people are favourably disposed towards the Free Church, but have not yet, as far as we are aware, been visited by any of our ministers.

Although Cornwall and Finch are not, strictly speaking, within the District of Glengarry, we have included them in that District, and we trust that the plain narrative of the preceding facts may be instrumental in securing a more adequate supply of ministerial labors for this section of Canada than it has yet enjoyed. At present there is but one ordained minister within the District, which contains more than 10,000 Presbyterians, and he is at present absent from his flock, in weak health, and engaged elsewhere in missionary duty.

The City of Montreal, the most important station within the bounds of the Presbytery, is still