

little that we know of the state of your Churches—our only source of information being the occasional notices which appear in the pages of the Missionary Record of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland: but we indulge the hope that the work is prospering in your hands, and we fervently pray that, by the Divine blessing on your labours, the Churches under your inspection may be established and strengthened and settled in the faith of the gospel, and that many of the saved may be daily added to them. We were much pleased to learn of the arrangements into which you have entered for the training of a native ministry, and we trust these arrangements may be signally blessed by the great King and Head of the Church, who, “when he ascended on high, received gifts for men, and gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers: for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come, in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” May your Theological Hall be well supplied with candidates for the sacred office, who, under the guidance of the Spirit of all grace, shall, from time to time, be sent forth in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace, to occupy the places of their predecessors in the holy ministry, and to maintain and extend the kingdom of God in the land where your lot is cast.

We were also much gratified by the intelligence which your letter contained, that your Church had entered on the missionary enterprise. You could not, dear brethren, have mentioned a more favourable or cheering symptom; for we believe true Christianity is always philanthropic in its tendency, and that in proportion to our exertions for the spiritual benefit of others, will be, as the Divine and gracious reward, our own increase in faith, in love, and in holiness. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and they who water others shall be watered themselves.

Regarding our own Churches we must speak with caution. That not a few of those who are in full connexion with them are the subjects of the saving grace of God, we do verily and gratefully believe: but the imperfections and short-comings of many others are too manifest not to be acknowledged and deplored. Of such

we cannot but stand in doubt. It is our candid opinion that God has, in this island, a people for himself, but that these are much fewer in number than the reported size of our Churches, generally, would lead you to suppose. Probably this is the case everywhere. We are not, however, discouraged on this account. All things considered, there is no reason for despondency. The gospel of Christ, unquestionably, has been found here, as well as elsewhere, to be the power of God and the wisdom of God unto salvation; and although its progress may be slow, we doubt not it will be sure, and that, if not in our day, yet in the times of our successors, the blessed effects of the proclamation of Divine truth will be conspicuously and extensively seen in the intellectual and moral elevation of the once degraded and ignorant and enslaved inhabitants of this lovely island of the sea. We are apt to be impatient and to expect too much. It is not an easy task to evangelize the heathen; and we are convinced, from past experience, that their religious and social improvement will, in general, be a slow process—requiring strong faith, much labour, and fervent prayer. It is natural for us, no doubt, to desire to witness the fruits of our exertions, but we ought to remember that the Divine arrangement in redemption as in providence often is “one soweth and another reapeth,” and that the one contributes as much as the other to the ultimate and glorious result. Let us, therefore, be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Several of our Churches have suffered very seriously, of late, from the want of settled pastors: but we rejoice, and you will also be glad to learn, that there is now the prospect of this want being supplied—intelligence having recently reached us from Scotland that *four* additional labourers are about to be sent out to our assistance by the Mission Board. This is an accession to our reduced ranks of which we stand much in need, and for which we have been ardently desirous. Coming as they do in the name of the Lord, we trust that his presence may attend them, and His blessing crown their efforts in His cause with abundant success.

Our institution for the training of teachers and pastors, of the existence of which you are doubtless aware, is still in