

much remaining apathy. I thought I observed a more than usual wakefulness among many of the people. It appears to me that there is a growing wakefulness of attention to the truth delivered them, something like a hungering after it. They appeared to me to be in a highly favorable condition for the reception of it, and I think we may safely infer from this that the Lord has been in some measure blessing the labors of his servants, who have occasionally visited them. And your own monthly visits, through the *Record*, are highly valued and productive of much good among them. I have often heard them saying that the disruption was a happy event for them; as it was over-ruled for bringing the means of salvation among them, in much greater abundance than formerly. The fields are, indeed, white to harvest. O that there were laborers to enter upon them; that, by the blessing of God, much fruit of souls might be gathered into everlasting life. It is quite clear, however, that a very favorable season is fast passing away; and who can tell what may be the effect of their being left much longer in their present destitution. In fine, it concerns all to inquire what the Lord would have them to do, in order to their being in the way of saving their own souls and the souls of their fellow sinners around them; and there are two things that all right-hearted persons will, I think, feel themselves called upon speedily to engage in, viz., to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth faithful laborers into his harvest,—to pray for a blessing upon the means of grace, so far as they are already available,—and to contribute to their substance, as God has blessed them, for the support and extension of the ordinances of the gospel throughout the land. It has often struck me as wonderful, the apathy that is manifested even by the people of God on this subject, and how disproportioned are the efforts made by them to provide for their perishing fellow sinners, the means on which, under God, their everlasting welfare depends. The inadequacy of their impressions on this subject, may be seen by contrasting the laudable zeal and self-denying energy they display in supplying to their suffering fellow creatures the bread that perishes; with the coolness, bordering on indifference, with which they look upon thou- sand perishing for want of the bread of life. May all of us be awakened to a sense of our duty, and work while it is day; knowing that the night cometh, in which no man can work. And may the Lord appear in his glory, by building up his Zion among us.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours, unfeignedly,
DUNCAN McMILLAN.

LONDON, August 16, 1847.

REVEREND & DEAR SIR.—As it is our part to make use of every means which may, by the Divine blessing, be conducive to the advancement of true, undefiled, and vital religion; and, in compliance with your request, I thought proper to trouble you with the following remarks, referring to my missionary travels in the Western Districts. They are hurriedly extracted from my note-book, and their imperfections will be very kindly overlooked. If you suppose that they might be of any service in promoting the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom among the many thousand inhabitants of this vast country, but especially among those to whom they more immediately refer. I would feel much obliged to you for giving them a place in the columns of the *Missionary Record*.

On Sabbath, the 18th ultimo, I preached in Indiana, a small village conveniently situated on the Grand River. I was the first messenger of the Presbyterian Church of Canada that had the pleasure and privilege to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ among the forgotten residents of this obscure place. Although there was no intimation given of my coming till the previous evening, a goodly number of apparently very interesting people assembled to hear the word of salvation in the village school-house. The only edifice ever erected for public worship in this place, is one curiously devoted to the service of Antichrist, who

exercises here an almost undisputed sway. I was informed that Mr. Thompson, M. P., a gentleman in extensive business, and of considerable property, purposes to have a Presbyterian Church erected in this village. If Mr. Thomson will succeed in accomplishing his laudable design—and I have no doubt but he may—the gospel will, in the course of a short time, and I hope with much success, unfold its banner of truth here in the very face of Romanism, and all its accompanying vices. In the meantime, the voice of the messengers of peace is seldom heard among the many hundreds that dwell in the wood and districts bordering on the Grand River, where intemperance, Sabbath desecration, and all other vices, are indulged and fostered without any hindrance. This tract of country was, some years ago, in possession of the Six Nations (Indian tribes), and although now occupied by another race of men of different colour, it may still be regarded as overshadowed with the thick darkness of spiritual heathenism. About three or four miles up the river from Indiana lies the village of York. On my way through I inquired into the state of religion in this place, where I found no Presbyterians, except one solitary individual, a young man, who had the privilege of being brought up under a *Moderate Ministry* in Glengary (C. E.), and the consequence is, that he is now more favourable to Unitarianism than to any Evangelical church.

On Sabbath, the 1st and 8th instant, I preached in Stratford to a full audience of exceedingly attentive people. We met in the church, which has been erected some years previous to the disruption, but which, on account of that inevitable event, is still left in an unfinished state. It stands on a beautiful and rather elevated situation, and with its glittering spire, which may be seen at a distance rising beyond the heights of the encircling woods, is the greatest ornament of which the fast improving village of Stratford can boast. In company with some of our elders, I visited about twenty families in connexion with our church in this district, all of which gave us a most cordial reception, apparently glad to hear and receive the word of life. In one place we met with a number gathered to what they call "a logging bee." As soon as they heard of our object in traversing those woods, they all left their work, and entering together into the house, sat down with as much composure and reverence to worship Jehovah as if we were assembled in one of our city churches. I believe that this mode of feeding the flock of Christ, if conducted in the spirit of wisdom and love, may be as effectual in building our Zion as the solemn services of the Sanctuary on the Lord's day. I suppose that there are from four to five hundred Presbyterians about Stratford. They are in the meantime quite destitute of the means of grace; and if their willingness were equal to their abilities, they are in such circumstances that a minister might be very comfortably supported among them. The church, in the meantime, should endeavour to extend its sympathy to meet the pressing demands of their present condition. Other denominations are putting forth all their energy to form congregations among our people in this place, and they make use of every means (the propriety or impropriety of which I am not to discuss in this place) to render their efforts successful. I may mention here (the fact is truly affecting) that there are some who, when they had seen Christ's church—"terrible as an army with banners," on account of the purity of its communion, the strictness of its discipline, and the holiness of its living ministry—have forsaken its society, and have taken refuge under the indulgence of such as make use of laxity in the administration of church discipline as a means of securing proselytes to their own creed, (if they have any creed at all.) That Stratford is a place of considerable importance must be admitted by every one that is acquainted with the advantages of its locality. It is situated in the midst of a very rich, extensive and flourishing country. On the stage road leading from Guelph to Goderich, and about equal distance from each. The River Avon flows through the midst of it, whose clear waters, pebbled bed, and lovely banks, cannot but afford much pleasure and delight to any mind habituated to ad-

mi- the beauties of nature. Saw and great mills are built here on the waters of the Avon, which are thus rendered exceedingly serviceable to the residents of the neighbouring townships. It is expected that Stratford will soon be erected into a county town, and then become a place of still greater importance.

After labouring for some time in those "solitary places," where I was much encouraged with the apparent hungering and thirsting of the people after the bread and the water of life. I proceeded to London, where, according to previous appointment, I was to preach on the 15th inst. On my way through the townships of Oxford (on Saturday, the 14th), I overtook one of those grey-haired Highlanders so common in that part of the country, which is settled chiefly with Highland people from Sutherlandshire. He told me that he was on his way to their weekly prayer and fellowship meeting, and wished me to accompany him, which I was very reluctant to do, as London was at a distance of fifteen miles before me, and as I required some time to prepare for the duties of the morrow; but as the clouds were threatening the discharge of a very heavy shower, I accompanied him into the place of meeting, where a goodly number were assembled. After singing the praises of Jehovah in that language so dear to those who were born among the hills of Scotland, and reading the word of life and engaging in prayer, our attention was directed to that striking passage in John, which is fraught with the precious doctrines of the gospel. During the time of our mutual fellowship, in reference to this portion of the Divine word, I may safely say that there were many symptoms of the enlightening, teaching, and guiding of the promised spirit in this small assembly of the people of God. The precision, propriety, judiciousness, and solemnity with which those aged men present expounded and illustrated the doctrines set forth in the text alluded to, were peculiarly remarkable, and would have been creditable as to knowledge of scripture and practical religion to any Divinity student. O that we had many ministers and missionaries like minded to these men, set free from the power and dominion of sin, of envy, worldliness and ambition—men full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, then might we expect the blessing of God upon the means and ordinances which he has instituted in his church for the conversion, edification, and comfort of his people. After spending from two to three hours in this place, I went on my way, rejoicing in the hope of being finally admitted into the presence of the Lord, and the communion of the church, beyond the reach of the trials of time.

Ever affectionately yours,

WM. R. SUTHERLAND.

The following communication is from one of our students, whose missionary zeal and devotedness to study are well appreciated in Knox's College:

MR. EDITOR.—Nothing was farther from my mind than furnishing an account of my proceedings for your valuable periodical. There are many engaged in the work, who, I am persuaded, have intelligence more generally interesting to furnish, and who are able to give it in a more profitable form than I can at all pretend to. However, seeing you desire it, I will attempt a brief outline. I do so the more willingly, as a narrative of a tour through the townships in which I am principally engaged appeared in the *Record* for June.

Your readers will be gratified to learn that the congregations of Belleville, Huntingdon, and Tyendinaga are now under the pastoral care of the Rev. William Gregg. Tyendinaga is no longer undecided. At a general meeting of the people, they agreed to connect themselves permanently with our Synod, and to unite with Belleville and Huntingdon, in giving a call to our esteemed brother. It is intended that Belleville alone form Mr. Gregg's charge, so soon as the country congregations can have a minister ordained over them.

It is my lot to assist our friend in attending to the spiritual wants of his extensive field. Of the