

another to run to waste or to pass altogether out of our hands for want of means of cultivation. In this respect our Church has been peculiarly unfortunate, but is there not now some appearance of a prospect of being able to retrieve a portion at least of our lost ground? We are glad to find that the Presbytery of Pictou has determined to send two missionaries to the Island of Cape Breton, once more to break ground in a place where we have been strong, and where we believe we still number many attached and devoted adherents. We have at least been assured over and over again, that such is the fact, and we ought certainly to lose as little time as possible in ascertaining how far it is a fact and guiding ourselves accordingly. In Cape Breton, we had formerly numerous and deeply attached congregations, and at the last census we were informed that upwards of 6000 gave in their names as belonging to the Church of Scotland. For these poor people we have done nothing for well nigh twenty years, and the only remarkable circumstance is that a fragment should yet remain. That heart must be cold, and that love for the Church of our fathers lukewarm indeed, which could turn away from their own long neglected brethren without a feeling of sympathy, and a readiness to help them at the earliest opportunity. We rejoice therefore, to find that at last there is something like a certainty of soon ascertaining how strong or how weak our Church now is in the Island of Cape Breton. What are the feelings of the people, and what is the spirit of the ministers—of what was the Free Church towards us? We have to find out the number of our adherents, their means—their disposition—their position. What they are able to do, and what they are likely to do towards the maintenance of gospel ordinances among them in connection with the Church of Scotland. These are important matters, both to themselves and to the Church at large, which can only be understood by a somewhat lengthened sojourn of a couple of active and zealous missionaries among them for some time. It is encouraging to find that of the five missionaries at present under the Presbytery of Pictou, one and all of them are not only willing but anxious to go anywhere, where their labors are most required. And that spirit is in itself a guerdon of success—a spirit which cannot fail to make itself contagious, and that thus our ruined walls may once more be built up, and a larger portion of our former strength and influence won back than we had almost dared to hope for. It is important to our friends in Cape Breton to know, that the proposed visit of our missionaries can only be tentative. They go to examine the ground, and find out whether we are or shall be able to obtain a permanent foothold in that fine island. Much, we might almost say everything will depend upon themselves. If we mistake not there is a strong and generous

disposition to help them on the part of the Church so far as it is able. But we hope that they will be fully alive to the necessity and importance both of effort and sacrifice. The Church at Home has guaranteed the salary of our missionaries only for a limited time—yet with a generosity which we scarcely expected so that the people must do something in the meantime, in the speedy prospect of soon being obliged to do all. And after all if we view the subject aright, that duty is a great privilege—the privilege of possessing a stated Gospel ministry.

To our brethren in Cape Breton we say, be up and doing. In the spring or as soon as travel is practicable—these missionaries will be among you. If there are among you many who love the Church of your fathers, who wish the word of truth preached to you in your native tongue by ministers of that church—full of zeal in their Master's cause, and with qualifications, intellectual and spiritual which fit in an especial manner for their important work—now is the time to show practically that such is the case, by making earnest and energetic preparation for securing their services permanently instead of it may be, only for a short time. Let each one ask himself how much am I in earnest by ascertaining what amount of his worldly means he is willing contribute to so important an end. We are aware that there are many among them who are not blessed with much abundance of this world's goods—but we do not think there are any who could not do something towards the common object. We have written with some urgency, in the hope that this article will be read by many friends of our Church in Cape Breton, and that they will not only approve, but back up by all the means in their power the spirit in which it has been conceived. We are of those who love the old paths, and look up with reverence to the time honored associations of the Church of Scotland—that Church in which our fathers for three hundred years have worshipped and taken sweet counsel together, which is still strong and comely, and pure and earnest, which numbers among its living sons many of the greatest and the best. It is the Church of our youth—of our love—and our hopes, and we trust that with one heart we will all labor together for its prosperity and extension. We would be glad to hear from any friends of our Church in Cape Breton, any facts which might be considered useful or interesting, connected with their present condition and prospects, and once more we say to all of them "be up and doing."

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TER-CENTENARY OF THE REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND.

On the 20th Decr., 1860 (old style), was held in Edinburgh the first meeting of the first General Assembly of the Reformed