

Woodstock. March 14th, I preached in Dover, Simcoe, and Vittoria, and Monday evening at Northville.

In all my Mission I have had good health, and experienced much kindness, for which I am grateful.

CORRESPONDENCE OF STUDENTS.

The following correspondence between the Missionary Society of Knox's College, Toronto, and that of the New College, Edinburgh, will be perused with interest by our readers, as it helps to elucidate the spirit which seems to pervade both institutions, and to give some indications of what God intends yet to do by their means. May we not expect that He is preparing some shafts for his quiver, in those recently formed, but flourishing, institutions.

The communication from Edinburgh, shows that the Students of the Free Church of Scotland, (as well as the Church herself,) are looking upon our movements in this country, and may we not hope that some of them will be induced to dedicate themselves to the Canadian field, while they do not leave out of sight, God's covenanted people, and the idolaters of India.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

Toronto, 22nd November, 1846.

DEARLY BELIEVED FRIENDS IN THE LORD,—

Towards the close of the last session we were favoured with the receipt of your most welcome communication, and one of the last and most pleasing acts of our Society, prior to its winding up for the season, was to listen to the recital of its cheering contents.

It afforded us unmingled satisfaction to learn that the "Great Head" still continued so signally to acknowledge the testimony which your much-loved Church has been privileged to bear in favour of His perflous rights, and that your honoured institution, which in a prospective point of view, must necessarily form the centre point of her hopes continues to "grow with her growth and to strengthen with her strength." We would desire to congratulate you on the flourishing aspect which she at present exhibits, as well in respect to the number of her members, as to the Christian spirit and general worth by which they are distinguished, and on the encouraging earnestness which the commanding position she has now attained affords for her growing usefulness and continued advancement.

We were all especially gratified with the intelligence which your affectionate letter conveyed to us, respecting the regard which our late esteemed visitor, Mr. Bonar, continues to cherish towards our infant Church, and the fond interest which he continues to take in her incipient movements. Of this we had many proofs prior to his leaving our shores; and that which you give us, as well as not a few of more recent date, greatly enhance our debt of obligation towards that devoted servant of the Lord. His labours in our behalf have, we trust, not been in vain; and we would regard the recent most acceptable importation from your number as but the *first fruits* of his faithful and opportune advocacy. A similar instalment (if continued for some years to come, at least till our institution be more fully consolidated), would assure, we feel assured, by the blessing of God, in the happiest results. Undoubtedly it is to the tearing up of an indigenous ministry, that we most ultimately look for the supply of the increasing demands of our rising country, but in the emergency of our present embryo state, the friendly aid of such a powerful auxiliary as our Mother Church, is almost essential to our successful progress. Indeed, without this means of support, our resources must necessarily be, in a very great

degree, crippled; and, consequently, our ability to meet the clamant necessities of our destitute stations, greatly curtailed. Many of these are, as yet, either altogether neglected, or, at least, only partially supplied, while not a few of those which are favoured with a regular Sabbath ministrations, are, nevertheless, from the *diffuse* nature of the presiding Pastor's labours, deprived of that constant and uninterrupted oversight which is so essential to their spiritual well-being. In reviewing the history of our Church, however, since it assumed its present form, and especially of our own beloved Institution, we have much reason from the heart to exclaim, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are not able." New life has been infused into all her channels—her oil of her Ministers has been *more than doubled*, and, animated by a spirit of more entire consecration, they have embarked more valourously than hitherto in the prosecution of the Master's work. Since the establishment of our College, there has been, throughout each successive session, a gradual increase in attendance; and this year, upwards of thirty are enrolled in the catalogue of membership. Of these, fully more than the half, are regular Theological students, while the remainder are employed in carrying on their studies in the preparatory departments. During the past year, two of our number have been set apart in the Sacred Work, one of whom has been recently settled over a Pastoral charge—the other is still actively engaged in Missionary labour. May these be but the prelude to a steadily increasing and growingly effective company of faithful workers, "*separated and called*" by the Spirit from all!—then may we yet expect to see this "wilderness bloom," this "desert rejoice and blossom like the rose."

During the summer recess, several of us were employed (like many, doubtless, amongst yourselves) in attending to some of the more neglected and necessitous Districts throughout our widely extended land. This somewhat premature intrusion into the duties and responsibilities of the solemn office to which we aspire, is no doubt attended with many disadvantages, but from the melancholy death of available instrumentality, is rendered absolutely necessary; and, indeed, in some respects useful, in paving the way to our more formal installation, and giving us a previous insight into the character of the spiritual field which, if it be the Great Husbandman's will, we will ere long be called on more fully to cultivate. The respective stations we were privileged to occupy differed from each other in *relative* importance, but the *spiritual* features of each and all of them were, to a great extent, identical. In some few instances the eye might be cheered with catching a glimpse here and there of some lovely plant, like a "hily among thorns," (Song ii. 2.) sending forth its rich blossoms and fragrant odour, even in the midst of a most un congenial atmosphere, and on a most unpropitious soil; but in the great majority of cases we had to mark the unbroken indications of a dreary sterility, and to mourn over the lamentable barrenness of a "fallow ground," yet unvisited by the Gospel plough—yet unwatered by the dew from on high. The Apostolic labours of that "living Epistle," the Rev. W. C. Burns, (whose fellowship for a brief season we were permitted to enjoy,) have, however, been eminently owned of God in breaking up many parts of the stony waste, and impressions, if not *salving*, at least *salutary*, have been made, such as we trust will not soon be effaced. The crowds that attended on his ministrations, and hung on his lips, especially in the West, were unprecedentedly great; and there are numerous cases of *apathy* being exchanged for *anxiety* and *indifference* for *interest*, in regard to all-important concerns of eternity. May these hopeful blossoms issue in substantial and abundant fruit!

At the close of last session we resolved, when separated, to devote half an hour each Saturday evening to simultaneous prayer in behalf of the Church in general, and ourselves in particular, in view of each successive Sabbath. Thus, at this best of all trying places, we were permitted, though absent in body, to meet in spirit, and found in the *common object* which brought us thither, a *common bond* which linked us the more

enderingly to each other, and (we would trust also) to Him whose servants we profess to be. And who knows but that any little measure of success with which the Lord may have been pleased to crown the labours of any of us, may be traced to this united presentation of the "evening sacrifice," when the Sabbath was nigh at hand?

Our Association continues to prosper, and during last session its operations served at least to keep alive, if not to fan the flame of Missionary zeal amongst us. At our monthly meetings, which took place generally on Saturday, an essay was read by one of our number on some subject connected with our great theme; the rest of the time being devoted to the communication of interesting intelligence from the different departments of the Missionary field, and joining in objectional exercises, in connection with the special object of our meeting. These occasions were both pleasant and profitable, forming a refreshing interlude in the midst of our more immediate studies. A Missionary Box, too, was kept, the proceeds of which we devoted to the Jewish Mission of our parent Church, feeling as we did that that "peculiar people," still "beloved for the fathers' sakes," to whom we owe so much, deserved the first votive offerings of our infant Society.

In connection with this we may state, that at our closing meeting we resolved that, if possible, each of us should collect during the summer the sum of £1, currency, in support of your devoted Missionary, Mr. Braidwood, and the result of our feeble endeavours you will find in the enclosed Bank order for £20 currency, which little mite we would desire to cast into your Treasury, praying that He who acknowledged and blessed the widow's, may acknowledge and bless *ours*, as well as the object to which it has been consecrated.

The movements going on in Britain for the bringing about the fulfilment of Emanuel's parting prayer, "that all may be one," are in the highest degree cheering, and if countenanced, as doubtless they are, by Him who breathed forth that memorable petition, they cannot fail to be productive of mighty results. The "armies of the aliens" are marshalling their forces: why then should not "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty," form the general rallying cry to the "armies of the faithful?" The Captain is one, the banner is common—the "Captain of Salvation," the "banner of love,"—why then ought not the soldiers of the Cross, following the *one* and ranged beneath the *other*, "clad in the whole armour of God," to fight in one undivided phalanx against the common foe? Most gratifying is it to behold even the feeble dawning of this blessed consummation; and that the Church of our fathers, in her *individual* if not in her *collective* capacity, has been foremost in the bright catalogue of those who are aiming at its accomplishment, adds no inconsiderable item to the sum of our gratification.

And now, dear brethren, we would desire to "commend you to God, and to the word of His grace," praying that He would bless your Society and all its members, shining on you with the glad some "light of his countenance," and crowning all your efforts in his cause with the tokens of his approval. In return, we would seek a similar interest in your prayers, and a renewed expression of kindred emotions, while we remain

Yours in the best of bonds,

ROBT. F. BURNS,

Cor. Sec. Mis. Assoc. Knox's College, Toronto.

TO THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF KNOX'S COLLEGE, TORONTO.

NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,
February 1st, 1847.

DEAR BROTHERS,—The deeply interesting circumstances in which your infant institution is at present placed, rendered your letter of the 23rd of November last peculiarly acceptable. Of late we have been favoured with several communications from various parts of the missionary field, but permit us to assure you that none of them has afforded