

and go forth and reflect amidst the quiet and silence of the country? Who is there who has not felt disposed, at one period or other in his life, to withdraw from his usual occupation, and it may be even from the society of his own household, to separate himself for a brief space from this world and its concerns, and to allow his thoughts to fix themselves on higher, and purer, and holier things? But there are seasons of the year, when this desire of which we have spoken comes over the mind with greater power than at others. In the freshness and genial air of a spring morning, when vegetable life is again bursting forth—in the brightness of a cloudless summer's day, when the whole atmosphere is perfumed with sweets, and the eye as well as the ear is saluted with sights and sounds of happiness and joy—in the mild and sober glories of a serene autumn afternoon that sweet season which has been so beautifully described as the "Sabbath of the year,"—who has not at such seasons as these felt a train of new and unknown sensations pour through his mind, purified from all taint of earthly dross, which raise him for the time above this nether world and its perishable concerns, make him forget that he is a child of earth, and tell him, in characters which can never be effaced, that he is an inheritor of heaven? Who has not at such a time felt his heart lifted up to the Maker and Giver of all good, and experienced a more humble gratitude for Divine mercies, a more unhesitating belief, and a more unquestioning faith in the truth of revelation? Who has not returned from such meditations as these, to his former occupations, a wiser, a better, and a happier man?

THE GUARDIAN.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1839.

ON THE NECESSITY FOR VISITING MISSIONARIES.

When the influence of Religion is daily increasing, and a spirit of zeal and liberality is beginning to animate and to direct the minds of the members of the Christian Church, when an united and vigorous movement for the support of Missions has lately been made, and a Missionary Society regularly formed, in connection with our Synod, it is not at all wonderful that the hopes and expectations of the neglected settlers, should be excited by such welcome intelligence, and that their attention should be eagerly directed to that quarter, whence relief is to be looked for, and Religious Instruction to be obtained.

We have no doubt that many of the humble dwellers in the wilderness, who have received information of what has lately taken place in this Province, are daily and hourly waiting with earnest and anxious expectation, for a visit from some one of our Missionaries, to preach the glad tidings of salvation to them and to their offspring, and to guide their feet into the paths of peace and of holiness. We could almost excuse, whilst we sympathize with these forsaken individuals, who have been left for a number of years without the ordinances of Religion, when they accompany, as they often do, their applications for relief, with expressions of regret and distrust, and sometimes form the hasty and unwarranted conclusion, that the Ministers of the Gospel have lost all care for their souls.

If our neglected brethren would only view with candour and impartiality, the situation in which the Ministers of Religion are placed in this rising colony, and the difficulties and disappointments they themselves meet with, if they would only recollect the numerous unsuccessful applications which have already been made on their behalf, and the undiminished interest which is still felt for their spiritual and immortal welfare, they would be ready to commend sometimes, when they feel inclined to censure, and to wait with patience and resignation, until the great King and head of the Church, send them pastors according to his own heart, to feed them with knowledge and understanding.

The spiritual wants of such a large and growing province as this, cannot be provided for in a single day, the Gospel cannot be proclaimed in all the new settlements, without additional means and a very considerable number of additional labourers. From subscriptions, donations, and congregational collections, a respectable sum has been now procured, for Missi-

onary purposes, which will no doubt be daily increased. But no additional Ministers have lately arrived from Scotland, and the Clergymen in the country can scarcely overtake the duties required in their own congregations. It is probable, however, that some of them may feel inclined, and be also enabled to engage in Missionary labours, for a short season, during the ensuing autumn. And we have no doubt, that the Members of the Church in general, will therefore highly approve of the resolution which was adopted at the last meeting of the Synod, authorizing the Committee of Missions "to employ those Members of the Synod, who can afford to give services for Missionary ends, if they shall see cause."

This we think in present circumstances, an exceedingly wise and judicious proposal, and it should be acted upon immediately. The Committee of Missions cannot be at any loss to see cause for such services, when dozens of settlements are calling aloud to them for spiritual instruction, and ere the winter season set in, Ministers should be engaged and sent forth, if they can leave their flocks for a short time, to visit the destitute settlements in all parts of the Province, and report their Missionary labours to the Committee of Missions, before the Annual Meeting of the Society. Although the relief which can be thus afforded may be only partial and temporary, it ought not any longer to be withheld, and in some of the more flourishing settlements, it may lead to the formation of new congregations, and at no distant day, to the permanent establishment of the ordinances of the Gospel in more than one district.

We have been frequently cheered and encouraged, since the commencement of our anxious and fatiguing editorial labours, both by the kind and affectionate commendation of private friends, and by the unsolicited, though welcome approbation, and flattering encomiums of our cotemporaries of the press. In the Canadas, in the United States, and in different parts of Britain, our small and unpretending periodical has received much more attention, than we could have anticipated, and its leading articles have been inserted and applauded in some of their ablest and most influential journals, in terms sufficiently gratifying to minds even more sanguine and enthusiastic than ours. We are by no means insensible to such acts of kindness, and we take this public opportunity of tendering to one and to all of these sincere though distant and unknown friends, our warmest and most cordial thanks. But there is one instance of approbation, which we consider particularly valuable, and which we have anxiously endeavoured to merit, and have now readily obtained, and that is the approbation of that branch of the church, with which we are connected, and for the instruction and edification of whose members this journal was more particularly commenced. The Synod of Nova-Scotia has thought fit to declare, "that they consider the Guardian as well calculated, from the manner in which it is conducted, both in its religious and political departments, to promote the interests of the Church of Scotland, and to extend useful knowledge among its members." This is no faint praise. It is as high a commendation as we could expect, and much higher, we are afraid than we deserve. And this testimony, for it be remembered, is so much the more valuable in itself, from persons who have constantly and carefully perused the pages of our weekly journal, who from their education and station are well qualified to form just and correct ideas on the subjects which we have not only intimately acquainted, with the moral and spiritual necessities of the Presbyterian population, but are desirous, at the same time, to see them carefully instructed in the doctrines, and precepts, and promises, and consolations of the Gospel.

We anxiously hope that we shall not be left to carry on such an arduous work unassisted and alone, to bear at once a heavy load of pecuniary re-

sponsibility, and provide weekly new materials for the pages of such an important journal. Whilst we are gratified by the favourable testimony, which the Synod has borne in favour of our past labours, we have no doubt that the members of that venerable court, will cheerfully and amply redeem the pledge which they have also given, and "deem themselves as an united body, and as individual members, bound to give it (the Guardian) every support in their power, both by literary contributions, and by extending its circulation, as far as their influence and circumstances will enable them so to do."

We beg leave to direct the attention of our readers to a very beautiful and affecting account of a Communion Sabbath in the Highlands of Scotland, which appears on another page. It proceeds from the pen of the pious author of "The Ministers Family," and describes in striking and appropriate language, the solemn services of that sacred day, which have lately been commemorated in still more enraptured strains, by Hislop, in his celebrated poem entitled, "The Scottish Sacramental Sabbath." We intend to publish on an early day, this writer's account of the Thanksgiving Sabbath, which concludes with an affecting sketch of the dying moments of Mr. Douglas.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The Church of Scotland has passed through many strange and eventful periods since the era of her establishment in this country; and though in all of them she has proved true to her motto, "Not consumed," there have been occasions when her fidelity to the cause of truth and righteousness has been sorely tried. It is impossible to read the instructive page of our Church's history without being touched with a feeling of holy gratitude and praise to her Great King and Head that, in the hour of persecution, He hath supported her, in the hour of darkness and of difficulty, He hath caused His face to shine upon her, and most effectually brought her feet out of the net. And though she has once more reached an era in her history, which appears to be fraught with important results as to the future, there is the best of all reasons to hope that He who hath been her protector and her guardian in the days that are past, will not forsake the vine which His own right hand hath planted. The meeting of Assembly, whose proceedings we have lately detailed, was looked forward to with intense interest, with anxious suspense. On its decisions at this momentous crisis, it was felt that much depended. These decisions have now passed, and it becomes every lover of his Church and of his country to pray that the Almighty would follow with his blessing, these decisions, in so far as they are accordant with His holy will, and that, still, in our beloved Zion, "Peace may be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces."—*Scottish Christian Herald.*

CLAIMS OF PRESBYTERIAN SOLDIERS.

"I shall now state particularly what I conceive we should, in the first instance, seek to obtain. We should require—1st, That every Presbyterian, on enlisting, shall be entered on the books of his regiment as a Presbyterian. This will serve many good purposes. Presbyterian soldiers may find it both convenient and profitable to join another communion; but having their names recorded as Presbyterians, will tend to bind them to their Church. Such a record, too, will serve to check any attempts which some might be disposed to make to proselytise them; and it will enable the Presbyterian chaplain, of every place where they may be quartered, easily to ascertain the individuals, whom it is his duty and privilege to attend to and instruct. 2d, We should require that Presbyterian soldiers shall be marched to a Presbyterian Church, when convenient, in the same way as Episcopalian soldiers are marched to the Episcopal Church, and Roman Catholic soldiers to the Roman Catholic. This is indispensable. The Presbyterian soldier has usually many temptations to desert his own place of worship. That of the Church of England is generally much more convenient to him. The service there is much shorter, and, as his officers are mostly Episcopalian, they are naturally desirous to see them attending there; and, if the soldier can avoid a journey, save an hour, and gratify his officers, by going to the English Church, it is not to be supposed, generally speaking, that his attachment to the Scottish Church will be so strong as to induce him to forego all these advantages. 3d, We should require that the children of Presbyterian soldiers shall be educated in the principles of the Presbyterian Church, and placed under the superintendance of the Presbyterian chaplain of the place where they are quartered. Lastly, We should require that one Presbyterian