

POETRY.

COMMUNION WITH GOD IN SOLITUDE.

'Tis not within the noise and din
Of this vain world, or aught within,
The Christian seeks for peace:
'Tis in the tranquil hour of prayer,
When, 'reft of every earthly care,
He finds a short release.

Shut out from this world's guiling power,
He goes to pass one peaceful hour,
In solitude with God:
Then what a land of bliss appears,
Beyond this gloomy vale of tears,
In Zion's blest abode.

No mourning souls in Zion weep;
All shall a joyful harvest reap,
And live in endless love:
The sad farewell is heard no more,
When pilgrims gain the welcom'd shore,
And join the saints above.

Sweet solitude! I'll taste thy charms,
Thy soothing powers, thy healing balms,
And seek repose in thee:
Reclining at thy peaceful shrine,
Teach me all earthly joys resign,
And live in purity.

O solitude, my choicest hour,
I claim thee as my richest dower,
Foretaste of heavenly bliss!
Teach me in thee to live to God,
To die, relying on his word,
And rise to righteousness.

Church of England Magazine.

Missionary Intelligence.

COLONIAL CHURCHES.

By the late Act of Assembly, the Annual Collection in aid of the Funds of the Colonial Committee fails to be made on the second Sabbath of April next.

In the prospect of the collection, it may not be improper to call the attention of our readers to the following statement by the acting Committee, as to their proceedings since last Assembly.

The Colonial Committee was appointed by the General Assembly in the year 1836. Its object is indicated by its title. The labours of the Committee have been increasing from year to year; and, with the exception of India (the well-known field of the labours of another of the Assembly's Committees), they now embrace nearly all the British Colonies in which Presbyterian settlers are to be found.

A brief abstract of the most important proceedings of the Committee during the past year, will, it is hoped, show the importance of this Scheme of our National Church, and afford additional inducements for increased liberality on the part of her members.

During the year ten ministers have been appointed or sent out to different Colonies by the Committee, viz.:—The Rev. Messrs. James Bell, to Hobart Town; Andrew Love, to Geelong; William Macara, to O'Brien's Bridge, near Hobart Town; William Paterson, to Adelaide, South Australia; John Gibson Macvicar, to Ceylon; John Macfarlane, to New Zealand; John Macmorine, to Melbourne, Lower Canada; William Simpson, to Cowan's Mills, Lower Canada; William Meldrum, to Upper Canada; Geo. Galloway, to Upper Canada.

For the salaries of several of these clergymen the Committee are bound, if their funds permit, in some cases for one, in others for three years, and in another, until a proper provision has been made by Government, or by the congregation formed in the place to which the clergyman has been sent.

Of these ministers eight have already proceeded to their different destinations, and the remaining two will be ordained, and proceed as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed.

During the year the Committee have paid for the outfit and passage of ministers sent out by them, £570; for the salaries of ministers previously sent out, £417; towards the building of churches, £300. They have also voted to the Synods of Canada and Nova Scotia, for the maintenance of missionaries and unendowed ministers under their superintendence, £700. To the Presbytery of Van Diemen's Land, to aid in building churches, £200; and to aid the salaries of ordained Presbyterian clergymen, where the Government grant is limited to £100 per annum, in consequence of a proportion of the people residing 21 miles beyond the minister's station, £200. To the Glasgow Colonial Society, which has long laboured with zeal and success in the Colonies, £400. In all, £2787.

All that has been accomplished by the Committee, however, bears little proportion to the necessities of

our Colonial brethren. Numerous applications of the most urgent nature have been received by the Committee in the course of the year for ministers and missionaries, which the state of their funds, and the absence of a sufficient number of suitable candidates, have prevented them from adequately meeting. And scarcely a week passes in which there is not a new appeal upon their sympathy. From all our Colonial settlements—from Australia—from Canada—from Nova-Scotia—from New Brunswick—and more lately, from different parts of the West Indies—the cry is loud and frequent, "Come over and help us!"

Nor are the claims limited to ministers and missionaries. Applications for aid in building Churches have been received from the following places:—Rogers Hill, Pictou; Chatham and Grenville, Stratford-on-Avon, Dundas, Peterborough, Pictou, Canada; Cape Breton; Montego Bay, Jamaica.

In reference to this department of their operations, the Committee find it necessary to exercise much caution; and before granting assistance, they require answers to be given to a list of printed queries, prepared with a view of bringing out full information.—Such applications are also required to be certified by the Presbytery within whose bounds the church is proposed to be erected. These precautions the Committee judge necessary, to prevent the abuse of the liberality of the Christian public at home. But, when the information is satisfactory, the Committee conceive that they make a legitimate use of the funds intrusted to them in affording assistance. It must be remembered, that the congregations of many of our ministers in the Colonies are poor and widely scattered. And there are cases before the Committee, of zealous servants of the Lord Jesus, who, after preaching at one station in the morning, have to proceed ten miles, sometimes also on foot, to another station, where their hearers are crowded together in a school-house, or in some temporary shed that ill protects them from the scorching rays of a tropical sun. In colder climates, also, ministers have frequently to proceed from one station to another along roads all but impassable; and when they arrive, find nothing in which to meet the few families that wait on their ministry, but a rudely constructed log-house that scarcely mitigates the rigours of a Canadian winter. When such cases are satisfactorily certified, a few pounds are surely well-bestowed, in diminishing the hardships endured by our expatriated countrymen, in their anxiety not to forget the assembling of themselves together.

The difficulty of finding licentiates of the Church disposed to become candidates for Colonial situations has been experienced by the Committee in an increasing degree from year to year, and more particularly in regard to the numerous applications for ministers and missionaries from Canada. This, with other considerations, has deeply impressed them with the conviction, that it must be to the Colonies themselves that Presbyterian settlers must ultimately look for a supply of spiritual instructors. The Committee, therefore, have hailed with great satisfaction the prospect of the establishment of a university in Canada, upon a plan which will secure a complete course of instruction to qualify young men for entering into the work of the holy ministry. A bill has been brought in, and has passed the Local Legislature, for the establishment of a university. It is to be built and endowed chiefly by subscription. Considerable progress has already been made in getting subscriptions in Canada. The Committee have had much correspondence with the Synod and Presbyteries in Canada on this subject. The plan and constitution of the university has been carefully examined and approved of by them; and they hope that a subscription, which is about to be opened in this country in aid of the scheme, will meet with the support of all the friends of Christian education; as, when established, this institution will tend greatly to strengthen the Presbyterian cause, and to promote the interests of religion generally in the Colony; and may be expected ultimately to render Canada independent of the pecuniary assistance of the mother country for the supply and support of Presbyterian ministers.

Meanwhile, the exertions of the Committee are more loudly called for than ever, and must not be relaxed. Some time must necessarily intervene ere the university can be in operation, and several years must elapse before it can send forth young men to take part in the spiritual instruction of the Presbyterian brethren in Canada. But the state of spiritual destitution in the Province will not brook this delay. The Committee learn, that at the present moment, from eighty to a hundred ministers and missionaries would be required in the Canadas alone.

A bill, in regard to the Clergy Reserves in Canada, has already passed the Local Legislature, and has arrived in this country, for the consideration and sanction of Parliament. The Committee cannot speak as to its precise nature, as they have not yet seen a copy of it; but, viewing it as a measure deeply af-

fecting the interests of the Presbyterian ministers and people of Canada, they will attend to its progress.

The Committee have merely glanced at the more important objects to which their attention has been directed during the past year. They wish they could have embodied, in the short compass of such a statement as this, all the affecting appeals which have lately been made to them for help. A specimen or two, however, must suffice. A clergyman in Australia writes thus:—"Instead of two, we should have four ministers labouring in this vast field of spiritual desolation; and, although we had four, our cry would still be, 'What are these among so many?' and our prayer would still be, that the Lord would send forth more labourers. . . . I am not without some faint hopes that, when your wealthy merchants many of whom are connected with New South Wales,—your opulent manufacturers,—your prison-discipline reformers,—your parents, who have sons here 'pushing their fortune,'—your devout and humble saints, who are praying for the speedy appearance of the glories of the latter day,—hear of the way in which one guinea may be made to do the good usually effected by two" (alluding to the principle of the Government to double whatever may be contributed, from private sources, to build or endow churches), "not a few of them will cheerfully give their aid towards the spreading of the light of truth in this land, where darkness may be felt."

In a letter, received within these few days from the Presbytery of Bathurst, Upper Canada, it is stated that there are already eighty stations in Canada in immediate want of ministers of the Church of Scotland, of which more than fifty are in the Upper Province. Many of these, it is to be feared, will, if our Church delay to supply them, accept of any ministrations they can obtain.

In regard to Upper Canada, another clergyman states,—"Would that the Church at home would send out a deputation to see our condition, and then return to tell every student of divinity, and every licentiate, our tale of spiritual destitution, and also the beauties of our fine, rich country, and the kindness of their countrymen and brethren. Would they but come and prove them. We propose, as a Presbytery, sending an appeal to Scotland forthwith. Obsecrate it with all your strength when it appears; and let our hearts be cheered with the sight of a whole array of missionaries next spring. . . . We have work enough for upwards of an hundred missionaries betwixt both Provinces; and we have no means of obtaining them, but by appealing to the Church at home."

The Synod of Nova-Scotia, in a very recent communication, say, "Upwards of 12,000 souls, in connection with our Church in Nova-Scotia, are in utter destitution of the stated means of grace, except they may hear two or three sermons a year from some member of Synod. The field of labour is so wide, that it is not possible to overtake it with our present number of clergymen; and hence the Presbytery of Pictou have been compelled to employ one of their number, for twelve months, in order, in some measure, to relieve themselves from the state of absolute slavery to which they have been subjected for the last two or three years, and the more effectually to be able to supply the crying want of thousands of immortal souls, who are depending upon them to break the bread of life among them."

In considering these extracts, along with many other passages of a similar nature that have been addressed to them, the Committee desire to thank God and take courage. A great door and effectual, for preaching the glorious Gospel, stands open in the Colonies; and they cannot but entertain the humble hope, that He who has called forth in their brethren this longing after the Word of Life, will, in His own good time, fill the hungry with bread. The present is indeed, but the day of small things; but in the little that has been accomplished, they think they see the earnest of something greater. During the four short years that the Church of Scotland has for the first time, as a Church, made it a distinct object to send forth preachers among Scottish inhabitants in Colonial Settlements, applications upon the Committee for assistance have increased ten-fold, and are daily increasing; and they cannot but believe that the anxiety thus manifested will call forth an increasing spirit of supplication and of liberality on the part of the Church at home, which will find an answer in the Lord of the harvest sending forth labourers into the Colonial vineyard. Having invited her expatriated children to look to her for assistance, the Church of Scotland cannot, when the affecting appeal is made to her, send them empty away.

The chief difficulty that the Committee have to struggle with is, in finding young men, with suitable qualifications, who are willing to leave their native country, while there are so many openings of usefulness at home. This difficulty, however, would be greatly diminished in various ways, if an increasing interest were manifested by the public in this sub-