

useful to students of history, and on that account I would recommend the judicious and discriminating perusal of the pages of a Newton, Jones, and a Milner. Church History thus studied, becomes a handmaid to practical religion and a help to experimental godliness.

In conclusion, let me say, that a very large portion of most valuable Church History may be gathered from the practical study of your own characters, and from judicious observations on the characters of others. Church History is not merely a record of facts; it ought to be made a repository of principles. In the chambers of imagery within us we may trace the lineaments of human depravity as portrayed in the Scriptures. In the general bearing of human conduct as exhibited by men around us we may find many valuable illustrations of christian doctrine. Let us however watch against censoriousness and self-conceit. Let it be our first desire to benefit ourselves by honest investigation into the mysteries of our own character; and let us seek to benefit others by the results of our study whether amid the dust and the cobwebs of a venerable antiquity, or amid the fresher developements of living humanity.

GODERICH, ASHFIELD, KINCARDINE, IN THE HURON DISTRICT.

Our readers will feel an interest in the following notices of these important, and hitherto neglected new Settlements. We discover, in them, an addition to our Missionary field, and another call to go in and possess the land. The day, we trust, is not very remote when our church will have not mission stations only, but settled congregations, with the "Presbytery of Huron" to watch over the interests of our people in these western regions.

EXFRID, April 16, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Being persuaded that your readers feel much interested in the prosperity and enlargement of our Zion, I send you a short account of my late Mission to the northern counties of Huron and Bruce: I left home for these districts on Tuesday, Jan. the 27th. I travelled through the townships of Williams, McGillivray, &c., and reached Tuckersmith on Wednesday evening, after riding about 70 miles. The appearance of the country, throughout these northern Townships, indicates, very clearly, both its fertility and salubrity, and presents a fair prospect of its being, in the course of time, a wealthy and comfortable place of residence; it is already in the course of rapid improvement. On Thursday the 29th, I preached at the London Road station, in both English and Gaelic, and administered the ordinance of baptism to two infants. We met for service in the Secession Church, the use of which was very kindly and freely given us on the occasion.—I had the pleasure, also, of meeting here, the respected Pastor of that Church. I preached here again, on my return from Kincardine, and baptized five children. The attendance on both occasions was rather full and very interesting. This station, which heretofore formed a part of the pastoral charge of Mr. Graham of Tuckersmith, promises to become very thriving and peculiarly interesting; there is, already, a number of excellent and lively persons attached to it—among these are four or five ordained elders, three of whom have but recently come into the settlement. I had the privilege of associating with some of these men, during my short stay in the place, and have much pleasure in stating that, by all appearance, they are—what all office-bearers in the House of God should be—men of prayer and practical godliness. The place of worship here in connection with the Free Church, is in course of erection, and expected to be completed sometime during the coming summer. The people here, would require a pastor

who could officiate both in English and Gaelic. They meet, in the meantime, on Sabbath and once a fortnight on week days, for prayer and the reading of the word of God. Considering all the circumstances of this locality, I hesitate not to recommend it as a place of residence to such as desire to settle where the land is rich and fruitful, the climate healthy, and the state of society exceedingly promising.

On Friday, the 30th, I reached Goderich, and held a meeting for prayer, with about twenty persons, in a private house. Here also I baptized two children. Goderich, which is the chief town of the county of Huron, is very pleasantly situated on the shore of Lake Huron. It stands on table land considerably elevated. It is built partly of wood and partly of brick. Its market square and spacious streets exhibit to much advantage the taste of those who first dreamed of its being a town. The appearance of the immense Huron, into whose waters the setting sun apparently merges in the west—bound on the east by its bold and crooked shore of so many wood-covered promontories—the winding River Mattawa, which decides the limits of the town on the north, proceeding to mingle with the clear fresh water ocean before it, and so rapid in its course as to seem to be detained by the intense frosts of the north, add much beauty and attraction to the situation of the town, and would persuade any one who loves to survey the works of God, to wait awhile, and fill his mind with the various features of the interesting scenery. Considering the extent and fertility of the surrounding country, and the many advantages which Goderich commands as a place of business, it might have been expected to flourish and prosper more rapidly than it has hitherto done. But the slow progress of this place in the course of improvement, is probably owing to certain causes—causes which have been efficient enough to damp the awakening energies of its hopeful residents, but like many other causes which insidiously, but successfully, work the ruin of communities, they have not been palpable to the view of the sufferer, and if palpable, appeared to him as almost irremediable. The churches here seem to be in a very fluctuating state. The Secession church, whose pastor, as I was informed, is a very devoted excellent man, seems to bear the inclemency of the cold climate, better than any other who has as yet attempted to unfold the Banner of Christ in these northern regions. It will appear very strange to Scotchmen to hear, that while there are hundreds of their countrymen about Goderich, the Free Church, the Scottish Church of the Reformation, has, as yet no tangible existence there. Probably this is chiefly owing to the neglect of the Free Church itself. I am fully persuaded, after making due inquiries into the state of matters, that if proper means were in operation, a promising nucleus of a large congregation, might here be formed with much facility.

On Saturday the 31st I preached in Ashfield, about fifteen miles north of Goderich. I preached here also on Sabbaths, the 1st and 8th February—and, administered the ordinance of baptism in eight cases. I also attended prayer meetings on the Sabbath evenings. The attendance on all occasions was very gratifying, and the services, I hope, were refreshing to us all. There are about forty families in this place, all sincerely attached to the Free Church. They are all Gaelic-speaking people, with the exception of one family. Some of them emigrated from the parish of Red Castle, and others from Loch Aish, &c. Many of them have brought the saviour of the name of Jesus with them. A person travelling a long distance, as I did to see them, would unquestionably, meet with hardship and difficulty by the way, but it is much easier in my estimation, to go to see them than to part with them. They are in the habit of meeting every Lord's day, and on week days, for devotional exercises. It was truly refreshing to hear, some of the godly men here, who are mighty in prayer, at our evening meetings, during my short stay among them. I think

that there is as much of the power of godliness, and of the knowledge of Christ among the people of Ashfield as shall ultimately consume all the modernism in the North. Ashfield, being situated on the Lake Shore, will, in the course of time be a place of much importance.

On Monday the 2nd February—I left Ashfield for Kincardine, where according to appointment I was to preach on the following day. It being not much more than a year since the first settlers penetrated into the heart of this great forest, there is scarcely any road, with the exception of the Lake Shore. I came to Kincardine, about 8 o'clock, P. M. I preached several times, in the new settlements, in Kincardine on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—I baptized two children and four adults, and solemnized a marriage. The attendance at our services was generally good, considering the circumstances of the people. The new settlers, who are numerous seem to be a fine class of people. There are sixty-five families among them that profess to be attached to the Free Church, and eight families belonging to the Established Church, and a few adhering to other denominations. About forty families of those who are of the Free Church here are from the Highlands of Scotland, and speak Gaelic—a number of these are in the habit of meeting on Sabbath and on week days, for devotional exercises. Kincardine, or, *Nahbahantungah* (the Indian name of the place) is very advantageously situated on the Lake Shore—in the midst of an immense tract of bush lands, which in a few years, will probably, be occupied with thriving settlers. The situation of the country so far as I travelled is very inviting, all the country bordering on the Lake here, seems to be well watered and healthy. The fishery and other advantages which it commands on account of its bordering on the Lake, are of much importance. Considering all its circumstances I have no doubt, but that in the course of a short time, it will be one of the most thriving districts in the west. I think that much praise, is due to Mr. Cameron there (whose family shewed me much kindness, he himself, being from home at the time), for his exertions in promoting the interests of the settlement.

There is a most interesting field for a missionary labourer. I do not know of any portion of the missionary field, at present under the oversight of the Home Mission Committee, that should be more carefully attended to than these localities in the north. If an able missionary were labouring here for six months—having Goderich for his headquarters, and Ashfield and Kincardine for preaching stations, I am of opinion, that it would be of lasting benefit to the cause of Christ, in these places. May the Lord send forth labourers into his own harvest.

I am, yours truly,

WM. R. SUTHERLAND.

SABBATH DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS.

TORONTO, May 10, 1850.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—

Allow me in my capacity as Convener of the Synod's Committee on Sabbath Observance, to request insertion of the following circular addressed to ministers of all denominations in the Province. I hope that the good example set us by our friends in Kingston will soon be followed here and elsewhere. Our appeal is to the friends of the Sabbath of all denominations, and we earnestly implore an union of such every where, for an object of such magnitude and value.

I have also to request of you the insertion of an article from the "Presbyterian Witness" of Halifax on the same subject. When in Charlottetown in October last, I had the opportunity of attending a meeting of ministers of all denominations in regard to the arrival of the mail; as well as of witnessing some movements of the same kind in Halifax. I rejoice at the successful commence-