

land, as an object of general interest, bearing most powerfully upon the prosperity of the colony at large, the salvation of immortal souls, and the advancement of God's kingdom upon earth.

Grants have been made, during the past year, to some of the ministering brethren in different parts of the country, in both Provinces, on condition that they spend a portion of their time, in every instance prescribed, in missionary labours, and report to your Committee at certain specified seasons. The propriety of this measure will appear on considering the difficulty, or rather the impossibility, at present, of obtaining persons to send as missionaries or evangelists to destitute places. Brethren Sinclair at Lebo, in the London district—Christian of Toronto, Jamieson of Hull, Edwards, jun. of Chatham and St. Andrews, and Tapscott of Colborne—the latter of whom is engaged as an agent for the Society for three months. Mr. Gilmour acted some time as agent; but his removal to a station among the Indians obliged him to resign the agency. Brother Jamieson, who has preached once a month in Buckingham, about thirty miles from his stated charge, observes that “the people commonly turned out well, and were very attentive to the preaching of the word; some were often deeply affected, but their impressions, not being deepened and kept alive by repeated presentations of divine truth, died away.” He relates, however, an instance of one young man of some influence in the place, who had been deeply concerned for the salvation of his soul under the preaching of Mr. Gilmour, but who afterwards relapsed. Having lost a darling child, he was led by the affliction to reflect upon “the transitory nature of earthly happiness, and the sin of loving the creature more than the Creator, and afterwards obtained peace through believing.”

From the great distance of Buckingham, he thought it right to change his plan by complying with an invitation to supply a vacant congregation of Presbyterians nearer home. Of the success of his labours at his other station in the rear of Hull, he says, “a great degree of seriousness obtains among the people, and several during the winter have been hopefully converted to God. The change effected among them is truly astonishing.” He points out the necessity of sending some one to preach regularly at Buckingham, where the people would do what they could for his support. Other letters contain similar statements, and all concur in shewing the spiritual dearth that prevails, and the desire of the people in many places to enjoy and support the ministry of the gospel.

#### PRESSING CALLS FOR MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES.

These have been for some time past very numerous and very loud, and it has been to your Committee a source of grief that they have felt themselves so powerless in replying to them. They have, in general, only been able to exhort to patience, and to suggest hope. Had they a dozen or more active and zealous young men at their disposal, they could easily direct them to useful and promising fields of labour. Brother Jamieson says, “I consider Buckingham and the vicinity as a field favourable to missionary effort. The people seem willing to support a gospel ministry; and *can* they not be supplied? Is there no young man willing to enter this wilderness, and labour for the Lord?” Brother Landon has several times applied for some one to take charge of the church at Oxford in the London district. Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, Quebec, Martintown, Laprairie, and multitudes of places in different settlements in the country, are in