

MISSIONARY REGISTER.

JUNE, 1837.

CANADA.

We begin at home—not our native home, but the home of our adoption, where we find much to interest us, much to rejoice us, much to grieve us, and much to call forth our most earnest prayers and our most lively exertions for the spiritual benefit of its multifarious population.

A community like ours may be expected to exhibit a great diversity of character on many points, and particularly on the most important—true religion. Viewing the Colony as a whole, in both its provinces, two things are equally obvious and lamentable—the general indifference which prevails in regard to it, and the want of religious instruction in any measure adequate to the wants of the people. The Methodists generally, and in some places the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians, have exerted themselves to supply this deficiency; and now the Independents have formed a Society for sending out Missionaries to Canada. May all these labourers be multiplied ten-fold, and abundantly blessed by the “Lord of the harvest.” We shall notice their proceedings in another place; the present article must be occupied with our own denomination.

There are, in the Upper Province, about fifty Baptist Churches: some of them flourishing, others stationary, and a few, we fear, declining. In the Lower Province the number is not so great; but the influx of English baptists last year into the Eastern Townships would give great facility

to the formation of new ones, if there were but preachers to instruct and organize them. The majority of pastors in the Upper Province are, we believe, from the United States; and to that quarter the churches look principally for supplies. Several British Ministers are now to be found settled in both provinces, and these have exerted themselves, at different times, but of late more actively, to obtain help from their native land. In the year 1829, Mr. Edwards, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Clarence, which was originally formed through his instrumentality, visited Britain at his own expense, with a view of exciting attention to the wants of Canada. An impression was made by his appeals, which prepared the way for farther results. One positive and immediate benefit produced by this visit, was the introduction of Mr. Gilmore into this country, where his labours have not only been constant, assiduous, and well-directed, but by the blessing of God have been in many places eminently useful. He was prevailed on by the representations of Mr. Edwards to remove from Aberdeen to Montreal, where he soon gathered a flourishing church; and during his residence in that city, confirmed the impressions that had been made at home by frequent applications to his friends in Britain, some of which were printed in the magazines. In the year 1834 Mr. Bosworth settled near Toronto, about eight miles north of that city. Having an opportunity of exploring a part