

Not long after the formation of the Colonial Society, an urgent application came for an experienced minister in the important city of Toronto. Dr. Reed was very anxious about this vacancy. "It has been put," he writes, "to several ministers; but no one is found." And while he was recording the fact, the invitation to go was on its way to his own hand. The honoured names of Binney, Morison, Vaughan, T. James, Tidman and Palmer, are attached to the document which thus unexpectedly claimed his consideration. After a very natural reference to the missionary speech already mentioned (in which Dr. Reed had said that he was prepared to go upon a foreign mission, if his brethren so advised him) the address proceeds:—

"Personally, it would be with no little regret that we should witness your departure from this country. We have a high regard for you, and greatly appreciate your services, as a speaker and a writer, both to Christianity and to Dissent. We know the importance of the station you occupy, the largeness of your church, the love of your people, the ties which bind you to institutions of extensive usefulness, to have originated which, and to remain connected with them, must be admitted to be an object of pardonable ambition. * * * * We want a man whose high and established reputation shall make his appearance in Toronto welcomed by the people as that of an angel; whose talents shall secure attention; whose character shall command respect; whose piety shall win love; whose judgment shall call forth confidence; and whose powers to originate measures for guiding and governing other minds shall capacitate him for combining the moral energies of the city and the province committed to his cultivation. Moreover, we want a man whose departure from his present sphere shall be of a character so new and impressive in the history of our churches, as to draw all eyes, and produce a new order of feeling among ministers themselves, and thus do more to advance the cause of Christ than might otherwise be accomplished in a century." "Be assured, dear brother," they conclude, "that we have spoken nothing but the words of truth and soberness, although you may shrink from them by imagining that we estimate too highly the effects that would flow, on both sides the Atlantic, from the consecration of your energies to the cause of Christ in the city of Toronto."

On the receipt of this most honourable and weighty application, Lr. Reed felt that his duty was plain. He immediately submitted it to Mr. Collison (Tutor in Hackney Theological Seminary) who, somewhat reluctantly, called a committee in reference to it; Dr. Reed having prepared the needful materials for judgment. "The decision of this committee," he remarks, "is certainly of great moment to me and mine; but I can leave it with calmness in the hands of Providence, and would devoutly pray, not for any *given* issue, but for a *right* issue." This committee met in February, 1837, and came to the following conclusion:—That, after carefully considering the whole case, they could not commit themselves to the responsibility of recommending Dr. Reed to comply with the request of the Colonial Committee. Their negative rendered it almost impossible for him, as a prudent man, to go. The affair became very anxious and complicated.

"I found," he writes, "that many brethren so little sympathised with my simple declaration of readiness for foreign service, that they could hardly think it deliberate or sincere. My disposition has been, by one act, to convince them of mistake and of uncharitableness; but I must not enter into temptation. My sole reason for action must be the will of God; and, by His grace, nothing shall keep me here if it appears my duty to go, and nothing tempt me to go if it appears my duty to stay."

The committee now proposed, as an intermediate step, that he might go for two years, to set in order this important station. It is hardly surprising