

in securing for Canada East the labors of some faithful messengers of the Lord Jesus.

Beginning with the Eastern portion of our field, the first Presbyterian settlement, which claims attention, is that of Metis. Metis is a settlement on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, about 200 miles east of Quebec. It has been a Scotch settlement for upwards of 20 years, and during all that time has had no settled minister. The circuit of a few miles contains the whole protestant population, amounting to over 600 persons, and from the fact that there is not, and never has been, a missionary station sustained in that quarter, in connection with any religious denomination whatever, (the Church of Rome herself in this instance being so remiss as to have no priest at a less distance than 30 miles) we would venture to anticipate that a zealous, prudent catechist or missionary would not only unite the whole protestant inhabitants of the settlement under him, but also be the means of conferring spiritual benefit on those who are still under the influence of Popish superstition.

The settlers in Metis, although originally from the Highlands of Scotland, all speak English, and could appreciate the services of any missionary sent amongst them. The Rev. Mr. Clugston, of Quebec, who some time ago visited the settlement, found the state of religion and of education lamentably low. This, however much to be regretted, was not to be wondered at, when the length of time during which they were without the public means of grace, is taken into account. It is hoped, however, that of late years an improvement has taken place in this respect. For the last eighteen months, the Rev. James Cairns, a missionary in connection with the protesting Synod, has been stationed in Metis, and we trust his labors have not been wholly in vain in the Lord. Mr. Cairns, however, proposes to leave Metis shortly, and a field of singular usefulness is thus thrown open for an intelligent, pious and prudent catechist. He would be in part, but could not be altogether supported by the people of his charge. The isolated condition of the settlement, at so great a distance from other congregations—the number of settlers, and their dependence on the Free Church for assistance—conspire to render the case of Metis one of peculiar interest.—With the exception of a few people nominally in connection with the Church of Scotland, who attend the ministry of a student of Queen's College, at present a resident in the settlement, no other denomination has any representative in Metis, and under any suitable appointment made by the Free Church, the whole mass of the people would doubtless unite in one congregation for his support.

#### DISTRIC OF QUÉBEC.

In the city of Quebec there is one congregation, that of the Rev. Mr. Clugston, in connection with the protesting Synod.

On the North bank of the St. Lawrence, at a distance of about 16 miles from Quebec, is Valcartier. There are resident here about 30 Presbyterian families, who possess a place of worship, but no minister. Allowing from 5 to 6 individuals on an average to each family, the congregation at this station would amount to from 150 to 180.—The Rev. Mr. Geggie, who was formerly pastor of this congregation, has now a charge in the Western Province.

At Portneuf, which is about 40 miles from Quebec, the Rev. S. C. Fraser, formerly pastor of the congregation at the Kennebec Head, is now settled. At present, upwards of 30 families are connected with the congregation.

Between Valcartier and Portneuf, also, there is a mixed population of French Canadians, English, Scotch, and Irish settlers.

Frampton is a station to the south of the St. Lawrence, about 35 miles from Quebec, where about 40 Presbyterian families from the north of Ireland are settled. They have no Presbyterian Minister.

Kennebec is a station about 60 or 70 miles, and Houghton 56 miles from Quebec. Taken together, they contain a population of upwards of 50 Presbyterian families, or from 250 to 300 Presbyterian souls. They also are at present wholly destitute. The settlers are poor, but they could easily raise from £20 to £60 yearly, towards the support of a missionary.

#### EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

The Eastern Township of Lower Canada, next

claim attention. They embrace a large and fertile section of country, the population of which is at present rapidly on the increase. From their proximity to the frontier States of the neighboring Republic, and other reasons, in no part of Canada, perhaps, have the pernicious heresies of Millenium and Universalism obtained so deep a hold on persons otherwise intelligent, as in these Townships. Although there are several stations looking for supply from the Presbyterian Church of Canada, there has been as yet no minister settled over any charge within this District. In some localities large bodies of Presbyterians are to be found; in others they are scattered more widely, and the missionary committee despair of ever getting thoroughly acquainted with their wants, until they leave at their disposal the services of a faithful missionary to itinerate amongst them.

The stations in this district at present demanding supply are Leeds, St. Sylvester, Inverness, Melbourne and Langwick.

In these contiguous Townships, there are three places of worship, and from 70 to 80 Presbyterian families, making an aggregate congregation of probably upwards of 100 souls. The Rev. Alexander Buchan was for 18 months their pastor, but resigned his charge during the summer of 1844, and returned to Scotland, to obtain a living in the Establishment. They have been since that time, and still are totally destitute.

Inverness is a Gaelic settlement, about ten miles from Leeds, containing at least 60 Presbyterian families. The congregation, amounting to from probably 300 to 400 souls, have two places of worship, but no pastor. They have been in this condition since 1814.

Melbourne is an important central station, about equi-distant (30 miles) from Montreal and Quebec. It was formerly the sphere of labor of the Rev. J. Macmorine, who, at the disruption, in 1844, adhered to the Scottish Establishment, subsequently left his flock in Melbourne, and has been lately inducted to a charge in connection with that body in Canada West.

The adherents of our Synod in Melbourne occupy the place of worship in which Mr. Macmorine previously officiated, and during the greater part of last winter enjoyed the services of the Rev. John Fraser, the Gaelic missionary sent out last autumn by the Colonial committee of the Free Church of Scotland. Our information respecting the present state of the Melbourne congregation is not sufficiently accurate to enable us to state distinctly the number of adherents connected with it. It is a station, from its central position, no less than from the number of resident adherents, peculiarly important. This is acknowledged very distinctly by the friends of the Scottish Establishment, and they show a corresponding anxiety to possess themselves of the field. During part of the months of February and March, when the Rev. Mr. Fraser was absent in Glengarry, a deputation of two clerical members of the Montreal Presbytery, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and a lay member of the Montreal Association in support of the same institution, visited Melbourne. Notwithstanding liberal offers of pecuniary assistance from the lay Association and other inducements, the deputation returned home without producing much effect, other than that of exciting a salutary desire in the minds of all to become more intimately acquainted with the points of difference between the Free and Established Churches.

Langwick, in a spiritual point of view, the most deeply interesting of all the stations within the bounds of the Presbytery, next claims attention. The settlement is about 145 miles distant from Montreal, and about 50 from Melbourn. The population, amounting to 501 persons, are wholly Highlanders from the Island of Lewis, who have now been about seven years resident in this District. Arriving in Canada in a state of almost abject poverty, and entering a new settlement, it was to be expected that they would have at first to undergo privation and hardship. They have done so hitherto, and they are still in a state of comparative poverty, but they have an ultimate prospect of attaining some compensation for their toil. Come from a land of ordinances, they brought along with them the love for the Word and House of God, which characterises the pious Highlanders of Scotland, and in the absence of any minister of their own Church, and speaking

their native tongue, one of their number was made catechist, and another, schoolmaster to the settlement. Nor have the labors of these pious men been without visible fruit. It has pleased the Lord. He who chooseth the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty to own the humble labors of his devoted followers. On various occasions during the summer of 1845 some gracious manifestations were seen of the power of the Spirit in the conversion of sinners, and the reading and expounding of the Word of God were often followed with a rich blessing to the souls of the hearers. Until December, 1845, however, the settlers had never heard in Langwick the gospel proclaimed by one of their own ministers in their native tongue. Mr. Fraser, who then visited them, stayed there only for a short time, but his services were highly appreciated. In a letter, giving an account of his visit, he states—

"All the meetings were well attended—indeed, crowded to excess, and the spectacle of so many under the deepest oppression was truly affecting. Some have attained to great peace of mind, resting on the finished work of Christ. The sense they often have of the Redeemer's love is so overpowering that they cannot contain themselves; and they break forth into exclamations of wonder and gratitude. One woman was carried off from the meeting-house, by her friends, literally 'sick of love.' She has faded away while we were singing the first four verses of the 65th psalm, and for many hours she had no strength. Her heart was melted like wax. She was one of those who accompanied me for several miles on my departure from the settlement. Others are still in great distress—walking in darkness and having no light. But they are not without encouragement at times. The strong are supporting the weak ones. A box of books arrived from Scotland, while I was there. Many shed tears of thankfulness over it. The Lord, they said had been mindful of them, and they say that he will bless them still. 'The secret of the Lord' is with many of them. Bibles were very scarce in the settlement, and the box contained a most reasonable supply. But there are not enough. The other books on practical divinity they have formed into a congregational library. Their gratitude to the ladies of Edinburgh is inexpressible. When they think of all, they can only be silent.

I am sure the kind friends whom the Lord has raised up for them in Scotland, will try to assist them in the erection of a Church. Their meeting house is not comfortable. It is formed of coarse logs, and thatched with the bark of trees. With the help of a large stove and a pile of blazing wood in one end, they manage to keep it tolerably warm. I was shown the site of the intended Church. It will command a fine view of the surrounding country. About £200 will provide them with a very suitable building. They have subscribed about £40, among themselves; and altogether I believe the funds on hand amounted to about £60. The timber is hewn, but they can proceed no further, until the money has been raised. The people of Inverness (a Gaelic settlement about 40 miles from Langwick) lately sent a contribution of a few pounds, and I am glad to hear that the friends in Montreal have done something also.

"They have schools, but not very efficiently conducted. The salary of the catechist is very small, and I wish it were greater. His labors are indefatigable. During the time of my stay in the district, a fortnight in all, he slept only twice in his own house, and his grey hairs and faltering step too plainly tell that such toil must soon lay him low. If he were removed, I am happy to say that his place might be filled by four or five men, as devoted as he. May the Lord spare him to them, and renew his age like the eagle's; for his loss would be like the cutting away of a right arm. O! that we had Elders like him—that we had ministers like him!"

Since Mr. Fraser visited them, the Rev. Daniel Clarke, of Indian Lands, has lately spent some time in the settlement, but we have not heard any authentic particulars as to his visit.

The kindness of the Ladies' Colonial Association of the Free Church, in remitting £20 Dieting per annum, towards the support of the catechist and teacher, and in sending a large number of books for the use of the settlers is duly appreciated by them. It will be seen from the forego-