

resulting from such an organization as that of the Colonial Scheme should stimulate and encourage us to the formation of a similar scheme designed to aid weak churches in the support of the Ministry and the erection of Churches and Manses.

PRAYER IN BEHALF OF INDIA.

We are much gratified at the action taken by the Commission of Synod on this matter. A copy of their minute will be found in the report of their proceedings at the recent meeting at Kingston in this number, and, as it has been printed and a copy sent to each minister, we trust that it is now being universally acted upon. The Commission is right in recommending a *continuation* of fervent prayers; for we do not believe there is a single minister or Christian member of our Church that has not already been supplicating, both in public and private, with anxious solicitude the interposition of Almighty God to bring the counsel of the heathen to nought, and to make their devices of none effect. But, while ministers and people have been thus abounding in prayer, we think it exceedingly becoming in the Commission of our Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, constituted in the name of Him who is at once the Head of the Church and the Ruler of nations, to have recommended continued attention to this duty. No words from us are required to deepen the feeling that exists in reference to the mutiny in India, to which in some respects it is impossible to find a parallel in the history of the World. May the King of Kings hear the prayers of His people; and may the nations, both civilized and heathen, learn, as they have never learned before, that the Lord, He is God, and that He will have no gods before Him.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HAMILTON.

We are glad to learn that this new congregation is gaining strength and will soon, from a Mission Station, take its stand among the regular congregations of our Church. We were glad to learn from a copy of the *Hamilton Spectator*, which we saw lying on the News Room Table, that the Rev. Mr. Masson, who had officiated for six weeks in the Church, had been presented with a sum of money on the expiration of that period by the people of the Church in token of their appreciation of his services. We also observed that a So'ree had been held in the Church, in which the Revd. Mr. Miller is now officiating, at which it was stated that the attendance was steadily advancing, and that the Sabbath School was in a prosperous state. Such an effort is highly creditable to the minister and congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton, of which St. John's Church was a Mission Station. We should gladly have furnished a fuller account, had we been supplied with the paper alluded to

but our friends are generally too negligent in communicating intelligence affecting the progress of the Church. They should remember that we cannot make bricks without straw.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

We insert in this number an excellent letter from the Revd. Louis Baridon, who was brought to Canada by Mr. Lapelletrie, and was formerly in the employ of our Church, who was then esteemed a faithful workman, and has since maintained friendly relations with us, and has received some slight aid from our Committee. It is well worth perusal, showing that a real work may be accomplished. Mr. Baridon has for some time supported himself by his own exertions and the labour of his hands, while yet continuing to discharge the duties of his ministerial office on the borders of Canada and the United States, as he had opportunity.

It is painful, the scant measure of support accorded to the French Mission Committee. As yet none of our wealthier city or country congregations have come to their aid. Why should this be so? The duty is a plain one solemnly assumed by the Synod. True, there have been discouragements and difficulties, and in the history of what mission are these not to be found? But yet the duty of patient, prayerful, persevering work is a manifest one. Thus far the remittances to the Committee are painfully discouraging. But £30 is all that the members of our Church have this year seen it their duty to contribute to the support of this interesting work, and of that amount the ladies of one city congregation have given the half. How can the Committee grapple with their work, if thus stinted of means, and yet they believe that an opportunity is afforded to reestablish the mission on a better and more permanent footing than it ever was before. They could at once secure for immediate employment the services of two labourers, of whose character and competency they have had satisfactory accounts. An inviting field (of easy access to the Committee, an important point) is open to the sickle of the reaper! Shall the harvest be gathered in or no? It rests with our readers to give the response, and let their answer be made a matter of conscience with each of them. Mr. Leger, who has laboured during the summer at Sorel in the employment of the Committee as a catechist, is about to return to College to resume the Divinity Studies of the second year of his Theological course, and that station will be again vacant in consequence.

The question we now put before our readers is the grave one, "Shall this mission, which has such strong claims upon our Church, be maintained, and the Committee allowed to pursue their plans for its prosecution? The labourers are ready—the field is open—there is wanting but the

liberal, cheerful giving of our people, and we trust that that will not be longer withheld, now that the position of the matter is fully understood. We shall wait with interest the result of this appeal, which is made with the sanction of the French Mission Committee, and have confidence that it will be responded to. We trust that Presbyteries will inquire as to the taking up of the collection in obedience to the resolutions of Synod at its last Session and frequently before.

INDIA.

How painful are the thoughts, how terrible the apprehensions which fill our minds when we think of India! But a few short weeks have passed since we dwelt with delight upon the progress of missions in that benighted land. From the fertile plains of Bengal, from among the mountains and valleys of Northern Hindostan, from the rivers of the Punjab we heard of the advancement of Christ's kingdom and the success of His missionary servants. Now all is changed. The powers of darkness have for a season obtained the victory, and Satan seems triumphant. Nor is this all. Tales of horror and bloodshed, such as we believe, never before darkened the page of history, now fill every newspaper, and have called forth agonies of grief from many a once happy home. The soldier in his strength, his helpless children in their weakness, have alike fallen a prey to the fiendish rage of the mutineers, death to many of the poor victims having been a happy release from tortures, the most agonizing which human ingenuity could invent.

Even while we write our minds are filled with apprehension that fresh tidings may even exceed in horror those which have already appeared. A vast army, it is true, is hastening to the rescue, but the delay of a week or even of a day may prove fatal to hundreds. At Lucknow, for instance, by late accounts we read of one thousand men, women and children besieged by an overwhelming force of mutineers. Provisions had become scarce, the wretch Nena Sahib had cut off the canals which supplied them with water, and the strength of the gallant band was daily becoming weaker. General Havelock, hastening to their aid, had in turn been obliged to fall back, and was himself in imminent danger. Who can tell but what the tidings of another and more fearful massacre are now being carried to our shores? May God in His infinite mercy grant that our forebodings are untrue.

In midst of all these events, and uncertain as to what an hour may bring forth, is there no call to humble ourselves before God and pray that the hand of the destroyer may be stayed? Can we not do this as a people, or at least as a Church, and by a special day of humiliation invoke that aid from above which alone can avert the threatened dangers.