

hour appointed for public worship; the school-house, which is large, being crowded, and a considerable number, who could not get in, standing around the house. The people here have displayed considerable energy in the good cause. The christian liberality with which they, in connexion with the people of Eldon and Mara, have contributed to the substance for the support of the different schemes of the church brought under their notice, is praiseworthy, and well fitted to exert a favorable influence upon others, as an example worthy of imitation. They have an excellent church in a good state of forwardness, which they intend to finish early this fall. On their hearing that the Rev. Walter McGilvray, the Deputy from the Free Church, had come up to the western part of the province, and was to remain in the country for a longer period than was at first expected, they manifested a lively wish that he might be able to visit them. With a view to this, I believe, they have been in correspondence both with Mr. McGilvray himself and also with different members of the Presbytery of Toronto. All that I can say is, that I know of no place where his visit would be more highly appreciated, or where, by the blessing of God, it would be more likely to be productive of good.

Finding that I could not conveniently leave this settlement till the following week, and being desirous of being as usefully employed as I could during my short stay among them, I made appointments for Friday, Saturday, Sabbath, Monday, and Tuesday following. The appointment for Friday was in the lower part of Mariposa, upwards of 20 miles from Beaverton. The place is called Brobas, after a place in Mull, from which most of the settlers emigrated to this country. This place has been but little attended to. Mr. McCall is the only one of our missionaries that has visited them. They are indeed in a state of great spiritual destitution, and it is not surprising that much deadness to spiritual things should on these occasions appear among them. I left Thorah, on Thursday, for this place, accompanied by a friend, who went along with me as a guide. Mr. Ross, one of the students, who, I was delighted to find, was laboring with much acceptance between Thorah and Eldon, also accompanied us. At the time appointed, though the day was rainy, a large dwelling-house was full of people, who listened with marked attention to the message delivered them. And it may give something of a correct idea of the state of things in many of the back settlements, to mention that there was none present who did not understand the Gaelic, so that I found it unnecessary to address them in English. I might say the same thing in reference to all the week-day appointments that I attended in these parts. And here I may make a passing allusion to what is cause of deep regret to all acquainted with the state of things in our destitute settlements, viz., that so few of the students of Knox's College are prepared or preparing to preach in Gaelic. This calls for fervent prayer to Him who has the hearts of all men in his hands, that he would put it into the hearts of many of our Gaelic speaking youths, to offer themselves; and that such as may be suppressing desires of this kind, either on account of apprehended pecuniary difficulties, or from a kind of modesty and a retiring disposition, which I believe characterizes many of them, might be enabled to break through all such restraints, "Come to the help of the Lord against the mighty," and throw upon the church the responsibility of having it fairly in offer to provide the means necessary for qualifying them for proclaiming to their countrymen, in their own language, the wonderful works of God. Here I had also the pleasure of meeting with Mr. McLachlan, another of our students, who labours, as I was told, with much zeal and acceptance, in Brock and other neighboring settlements. It was indeed refreshing to me to meet with those young fellow-laborers, and to enjoy much of their company while in these parts. On Saturday, I preached in Gaelic, in Eldon. Our appointment on Sabbath was in the new church in Eldon. It is highly creditable to the christian zeal and energy of the people of this township, that, notwithstanding many difficulties and discouragements, they

have erected a pretty expensive church, which has its full complement of seats, pulpit, &c., not excepting a pulpit hole, and all free of debt. Although they had thus provided a house, wherein they might comfortably meet to worship the God of their fathers, they had not yet met in it for public worship. They delayed doing so at considerable inconvenience, till there should be an opportunity of opening it with a sermon. They applied to me, with an expression of their wish that I would allow the appointment for Sabbath to be at the church. Though, as having no appointment to the settlement, I felt somewhat reluctant to do so, yet, considering all the circumstances of the case, especially the likelihood that a considerable time would elapse before another minister would be there, I felt it to be my duty to comply with their wish in this matter. And although the morning was rainy, and the whole day continued to be, the church was full. Had the day been favorable, it was believed that many more than could get in would be present. And I have seldom witnessed a more serious and attentive audience. I trust God was present with us, and that some of us felt that it was good for us to be there. It was indeed well fitted to awaken the most lively feelings, to witness, as I there did, the opening of a highly respectable place of worship, in a locality which I knew, not many years ago, in its wilderness state; where the bear and the wolf roamed unmolested, excepting when their occupancy of it might occasionally be disputed by the wandering Indian, scarcely less savage than themselves. To see there an edifice indicating a covenant relation between earth and heaven, full for the first time of serious worshippers, was to me deeply interesting. May it be said, in regard to many who shall stand hereafter in the assembly of the just, this man and that man was born there.

I was told, while there, that Eldon is included within the bounds of the Presbytery of Cobourg, while Thorah is in the Presbytery of Toronto. This happens by making the district line the boundary line between the two presbyteries. But it struck me as very inconvenient that these two places should belong to different presbyteries, as they move in every thing together, and will, undoubtedly, form at least at first one pastoral charge. For these reasons, I would venture respectfully to recommend that if Thorah be not joined to the Presbytery of Cobourg, Eldon, and I think likewise Mariposa, should be added to the Presbytery of Toronto. I think the people would like to be connected with the Presbytery of Toronto, as the most of the supplies they have hitherto received have been from that presbytery.

After preaching, on Monday, at Beaverton, and on Tuesday in Mara, I prepared for setting forward towards the other side of the lake. It was necessary to do so without further delay, as I had written to Oro, authorising them to make appointments for preaching, on Thursday and Friday, as well as on Sabbath. On inquiry, I learned that, owing to the state of the roads through Mara and the great quantity of rain that had fallen on several successive days, it would be impossible for me to go round by land as I had intended, so that I was under the necessity of crossing by the steamboat; and owing to the dilapidated state of the wharf at Beaverton, I could not get my horse on board the boat. I had therefore no alternative but to leave my horse, and return the same way for him the following week. This had the effect of confining my movements beyond the lake within much narrower limits than would have been the case had I been able to take my horse along with me. It in particular prevented me from visiting an interesting Presbyterian settlement in the north of Medonte. On my arrival in Oro, I found that appointments had been made for preaching on Thursday forenoon, in the church, in Gaelic, and in the afternoon, at Robertson's corner, in English; and on Friday, at Mr. Noble's school-house, at the town line of Medonte. All these appointments were well attended; and I trust some found them to be profitable to their souls. On Saturday, I met with a number of parents who had applied for baptism for their children, in order to have an opportunity of conversing with them on personal religion, the

nature and solemnity of the ordinance, and the duties to which they would pledge themselves in the reception of it.

You are already aware that they have a church in this township, and the readiness and consequent expense of it, taking their circumstances into the account, furnish an expressive index to the respect and veneration in which at least many of them hold the ordinances of religion. They might satisfy themselves with a much plainer edifice, especially when the prospect of a stated ministry among them was so vague and uncertain; and they would not want plausible reasons for justifying them in continuing themselves to the barest conveniences. But in going about building a place of worship, they were enabled to devote liberal things. The house is indeed an ornament to the settlement. I remember well the striking and pleasing effect it had on my mind, on the occasion of my first visit to them, more than a year ago, when, on emerging from the woods, I saw the church then lately erected. It is not yet seated; but I believe they intend to finish it without much longer delay. It was in it we met on Sabbath, and it was interesting to see, in such a place, so large a congregation. I believe it numbered upwards of 300. A collection was taken up in behalf of the Home Mission scheme of our church, which amounted to nearly £5; and there is no doubt, had an opportunity been given them at a more favorable season, that sum would have been at least doubled.

I had a short interview, on Sabbath morning, with two individuals who travelled on foot that morning from Mara, a distance of 15 miles. They returned the same evening to their homes; so that they travelled 30 miles in all that day, besides wanting to hear two sermons. They are from the island of Terce, where the Lord, I believe, has been revealing his arm among the people, since the time of the disruption; and I could not help thinking that the persons with whom I was privileged to hold intercourse that morning had brought along with them some of the blessing, which, as the dew of Hermon, had been falling on their island before they left it. They expressed their unfeigned sorrow for their present separation from the public ordinances of the gospel, and represented, in an affecting manner, the famishing condition of the neighbourhood in which they live. There are, if I remember well, about thirty Scotch families in that part of Mara, fainting for the want of the bread and water of life, with a prospect of that number being indefinitely increased, as it is a new township in course of being settled. I promised them that I would report their case to the Presbytery, in order that, in any future arrangements for sending supplies to that part of the country, they should not be forgotten.

On Monday evening, I preached in the village of Orillia, on my way homewards, and I may say I was much impressed with a sense of the importance of this part of the missionary field. I made an attempt to ascertain the number of Presbyterians in and around Oro, but failed in obtaining any correct estimate of their present numbers; but I learned that, so far back as 1843, the Presbyterians in Oro alone amounted to 592, and there can be no doubt that they have greatly increased since then, besides considerable numbers in the adjoining townships of Medonte and Orillia, within a few miles of the church; and I think I met with several among them who are the "living epistles of Jesus Christ." All it wants, to gather a large and flourishing congregation among them, is a faithful minister, and the blessing of God upon his labors. The people labor under great disadvantages in a temporal point of view, owing to their distance from market; but some mitigation to this unfavorable part of their condition may be expected to take place, when a road, which is being made, to open a communication between Lake Ontario and the country around the east end of Lake Simcoe, as far as Lake Huron, is finished.

In winding up this report, which is much longer than I intended or wished when I began it, I can only say that, in no country, can a more interesting missionary field be found. It is really painful to think how disproportioned the agency employed is to the magnitude of the work to be done. Amidst