

"Tract, 'the Merits of the Case,' giving a statement of the causes of the disruption of the Church of Scotland. I felt this to be my duty, for reasons which my narrow limits will not permit me to mention. This tract was listened to with very great attention. Afterwards made a few remarks upon the bearing of the same important principles upon the Presbyterian Church of Canada, when connected with the established Church of Scotland."

We believe that very lately a great display was made at this very school house in behalf of Residuary connexion, and we suppose this was the reason why our respected Catechist thought of making Dr. MacKay, speak for Free Church principles, and we can well believe that it would not be in vain.

Mr. McKinnon, gives an interesting account of the hearer reception he met with in Oso, and the large congregations he had in various parts of the township. He speaks too of the marked kindness which he received from James Dallas, Esq., of Orillia. We doubt not that our intelligent countrymen in that region, will yet rally round our standard of Evangelical Presbyterianism, which has only too tardily been unfolded amongst them. We add one other extract from Mr. McKinnon's journal:—"On Sabbath the 18th May, I officiated in McKay's school house, (in Oro.) to a full meeting. The people were chiefly Highlanders from Isla: after the English I addressed them in Gaelic, when the attention was evidently much greater than when I spoke in English. In the afternoon I preached in another school house, about 4 miles to the north east of this one. Here I found the house which is of a pretty large size for a country school house, entirely filled while many were standing without at the door and windows. The people who were assembled in both these places were unitedly labouring on the week days at this time in cutting down and preparing timber for the frame of the new church, which they are building: some of the leading men expressed to me their strong desire to be formed into a congregation and to receive the ordinance of the Lord's supper, from one or more of the ministers of the Presbytery of Toronto, as soon as their church is ready for that purpose, which they expect will be the case, about the middle of August."

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

At a Meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, held on the 9th of November, certain gentlemen resident in Montreal, Quebec, and St. Therese, were nominated, (with power to add to their number,) as a Committee for the purpose of raising and distributing a fund to be applied to the payment of the travelling expenses of Missionaries visiting destitute settlements within the bounds of the Presbytery, and for the purpose of carrying into effect such Missionary operations as they might deem most advisable.

At the last meeting of Presbytery held on the 15th May, 1845, the Rev. Mr. Clugston stated that it was thought advisable in Quebec, to have a Missionary Committee organized there, to take cognizance of the destitute settlements in the vicinity of that city, and in the Eastern section generally of the wide bounds of the Presbytery, and it is hoped that by this subdivision of labor, more may be done for the vacant settlements in that neighbourhood. The following abstract will then state briefly and generally. 1st. What the Montreal Committee have been enabled to do for the relief of the very urgent destitution by which they are on all hands surrounded, as at no other station hitherto, have Missionary operations been systematically prosecuted—and secondly, What destitute settlements are dependent on this Committee for the supply of Gospel ordinances.

The Committee, which consisted of 11 Members, held its first meeting on the 8th of January, 1845.

Previous to this time some of its Members had corresponded with the Moderators of the Hamilton and Kingston Presbyteries, and had urgently requested to have the services of such Missionaries connected with the Synod as could by any means be spared in the West. In answer to these repeated applications, the Rev. Thomas Scott was sent down from the Kingston Presbytery to that of Montreal. As the connection of the Committee with Mr. Scott has now ceased, it may be best for the sake of brevity to state here all the circumstances attendant upon this connection. Finding that Mr. Scott was unable to address the congregations which he visited, upon the all-important question which in its issue has caused the organization of the Free Church of Scotland, and of the Protestant Synod of Canada, the Committee thought it right to send Mr. Scott for a month to the settlements of Grand Feniere, St. Eustache, Rawdon, L'Assomption, &c., where a knowledge of the principles involved in this momentous struggle, and a capability of explaining the causes which led to the organization of this church, however desirable in every missionary, were not likely to be so serious hindrances to the success of Missionary effort, as would have been the case in many other localities. After fulfilling the engagements made for him, Mr. Scott preached on Sabbath, 7th February, in Montreal, and on Sabbath, 23d February, at Vaudeville. About that time a copy of the Missionary Record, of the Scottish Establishment, for February, fell into the hands of the Committee, which contained a letter dated Simcoe, Canada West, stating that at the date of the communication, (16th September, 1844,) the Revd Mr. Scott was firmly attached to the cause of the Establishment. The Committee not being aware that the Rev. Mr. S. had so lately been a zealous adherent of that body, and feeling the peculiar circumstances in which they were placed, resolved to appoint a sub-committee to wait upon Mr. Scott when he returned to Montreal, and ask an explanation of what appeared to them a very extraordinary course of conduct, and to intimate to Mr. Scott, their wish to close the connection subsisting between them, and their intention to refer the matter "simpliciter," to the Presbytery of Hamilton, as being the Church Court through which Mr. Scott had applied some time previously for admission to the Protestant Synod. Some members of Committee accordingly met Mr. Scott by appointment, and intimated to him the intentions of the Committee, at the same time offering him a draft on the Treasurer for his salary, during the time he had laboured in this district, which Mr. Scott refused to accept. The amount has since that time been again tendered, and accepted by Mr. Scott.

To return to the first proceedings of the Committee. Anxiously desirous to become acquainted with the state of the destitute settlements within their prescribed bounds, the Committee endeavored to obtain information by issuing Circulars containing queries, to be answered by the parties to whom these were addressed. Although the Committee issued about 30 of these, but two of them were answered, confirming the Committee in the opinion that they need not expect to become really aware of the true state of matters in these several county settlements, until they be able leisurely to visit them by means of their missionaries, and thus obtain accurate information.

In Glengary the Committee, through one of their number, took the pecuniary responsibility of employing as a travelling Catechist, Mr. Murdoch McMillan, an Elder in the congregation of the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Indian Lands. Mr. McMillan was formerly in the employ of the Gaelic School Society, when in Scotland, and the Committee have pleasure in stating that they are quite satisfied. Mr. M. is eminently qualified to discharge the important duties of his office, and they

trust his labours may be abundantly blessed. Since Mr. M. has begun his labors, some active friends in Grennock have relieved the Committee of all responsibility with respect to his support; and they pay the £15 which is all the remuneration Mr. M. asks for the portion of his time which he devotes to these labors. The Committee have been as yet unable to do more for their Gaelic countrymen than to procure Mr. McMillan's services, and they trust that a strong appeal may be made to the Free Church at the present meeting of Synod, to favor these extremely destitute settlements with some supply of Gospel ordinances. Within the Montreal Presbytery there are, it is believed, thousands of Gaelic-speaking Scotchmen and their descendants ready to join the Protestant Synod when they can be supplied with the means of grace. Not only throughout Glengary does a vast and hitherto untrodden field present itself for such missionary exertions, but at Beachbridge, at Melbourne and Langwick, in the Victoria Settlement, Eastern Township, at Inverness and other settlements near Quebec are there numbers of Highlanders who would gladly hear the gospel in their native tongue. The visit of the Rev. Mr. McMillan, of Carleton Place, eminently beneficial as it was to Glengary, was of too short duration to admit of his visiting any other Gaelic settlements in Canada East.

On Sabbath, 7th February, the Rev. Mr. Leishman preached in Montreal for the first time, and during the ensuing week began his missionary labors in connection with this Committee—and it is to them a pleasing duty to testify the high sense they entertain of Mr. Leishman's services, and the conviction which they feel that these labors have been a great benefit to the cause of our church in Canada East. His first tour was to the Huntingdon and Chateauguay Districts, where he labored from the 14th February to the 5th March. Little more need be added as to the success with which his efforts were crowned, than that the adherents to our Synod in Huntingdon sent him a unanimous and urgent call to become their pastor. If, in the providence of God, Mr. Leishman should be settled in Huntingdon, the Committee would augur much benefit therefrom to the Church generally, and to that district in particular. Mr. Leishman's services as a missionary were not confined to that district. He preached at St. Eustache and Grand Feniere, and about the 5th of March proceeded to La Chute, where he for two weeks supplied the pulpit of Mr. Henry, who was then employed on a missionary tour through Huntingdon and the surrounding Districts. Towards the end of April Mr. Leishman again proceeded to Huntingdon, where he remained until the 12th of May, and after the late meeting of Presbytery concluded his present term of labor by preaching on Sabbath, 18th May, at Grand Feniere and St. Eustache, on Sabbath, the 25th, at Beachbridge, a very destitute station, and on Tuesday, 27th, held a meeting at Henryville, in the Missisquoi District, which it is hoped will ultimately be the means of opening a door in that quarter for the preaching of the word, and for whatever missionary exertions the Committee may be hereafter able to make.

In answer to an application made in March, for two or three advanced Students of the Toronto Theological Institute, to supply as Catechists during summer, vacant stations which are unable to obtain, or adequately to support a settled ministry Mr. Gray was sent down by the Education Board for this purpose, and is now stationed during summer months at Rawdon and L'Assomption, places distant respectively about 45 and 25 miles from Montreal. These places have long been without any supply of ordinances from Presbyterian Ministers, and we trust the labors of Mr. Gray in that quarter may be owned and blessed by God.

Much has been done for some of the settlements within this Presbytery, by the few and necessarily short visits paid to them by ministers of the Free Church, who were officiating during the past winter and spring in Montreal. The Committee would