

from the disposition that grows, and is evinced to yield to a worldly spirit, to forget the concerns of eternity, and to live without God in the world. New settlements are rapidly increasing, and many of these are sending out their calls for ministers to go in among them and break to them the bread of life, that their souls may be nourished, and that they may reach the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. A very large back country stretches the entire length of Canada West, parts of which have been but thinly peopled as yet, while other parts were without inhabitants. These are now filling up, and it is the desire of ministers in the Province to enter and display the banner of the Cross, and give the people the opportunity of prospering in the things of the kingdom of heaven, at the same time that they are working for themselves a competency."

The Rev. R. H. Thornton attended the meeting of the Committee on Foreign Missions, on 8th September, and gave an account of the wants and claims of Canada, which, at our request, he has kindly written out. As he is well acquainted with the field of labour, and has had much experience in the work, his statements are entitled to the prayerful consideration of the preachers and students of our church:—

"I take the earliest opportunity in my power to send you some remarks in reference to the circumstances and wants of the Canadian U. P. Church. Of the need of something of the kind, I am much convinced, from the sentiments I have already often heard upon this topic, implying that our wants in Canada must now be pretty well supplied. Now such an impression can exist only where there is a very inadequate idea of the extent of the field to be occupied, and of the rapid widening of the bounds of our missionary operations in it. So far from being *well supplied*, our vacant congregations and stations are—from the paucity of labourers—receiving only about *one-third* of what they require, and which, in order to make progress, they should receive. This is the case in many instances observe, after the respective presbyteries do their utmost to supplement by their own missionary labours, the small share furnished by the few unsettled preachers. With such treatment, it may well be wondered how our infant churches exist, and still more, that their cords should be at all lengthened.

It will, however, be naturally supposed that the three additional labourers, who, through the kindness of the parent church, have been sent, and now reached their sphere of labour, will very materially aid in alleviating the pressing spiritual wants; but, I regret to have to inform you, this too is a mistake, for our probationers' list has within a few weeks been decreased to the same amount, while no addition has been made to the settled ministry. With these facts in view, along with a constantly increasing demand for more abundant ministrations, you will not wonder when I say, that the Canadian church is, at the present period of her history, in a position eminently critical. This is certainly much to be deplored, not only because of injury sustained by the existing stations, but because we are so seriously impeded in our efforts to carry the gospel to the "regions beyond," where, on every hand, the rapid influx of population presents hopeful openings, many of them too in localities, the timely occupation of which, in view of the future as well as the present, we can scarcely estimate too highly. The experience of the past makes us increasingly sensitive on this head, because, from our inability to embrace providential openings, and keep pace with the onward tide of population and improvement, not a few most desirable positions have been meanwhile lost. Every instance in which this occurs, is apt to obstruct our efforts for a lengthened period.

I see from the last number of the *Missionary Record*, that you have been informed generally of the increasing demands for a more adequate supply on the part of the older vacancies, and of our need of additional labourers. And with the view of following up this point, I would particularly direct the attention of the parent church, and of those who are, or are about to be, labourers in the vineyard, to the extensive and important field opening up in the region of Owen's Sound. This district, although remote from my own stated sphere of labour, is one with which, from various circumstances, I have had means of tolerably accurate acquaintance.

Its importance has been, you are aware, repeatedly adverted to by the secretary of our Mission Committee, Mr. Torrance, who with his brethren of the Wellington presbytery, has from time to time, most disinterestedly, engaged in missionary labours in that "wide region of new territory," stretching out to the north and west