

The house was nearly full, although they had but short notice. On Friday I preached at Mr. David Johnson's, Medonte. The attendance was good—the house could not hold them—the day was fine, and a number assembled on the gallery outside. The Presbyterians in this Township have been sadly neglected. Some families have been living there for eight years, and have never been visited by any Presbyter. Other denominations put us to shame in this respect. The Methodists, Episcopalians, and even the Roman Catholics, are mindful of their people and visit them regularly. The Roman Catholic Priest had been visiting his people two days before I passed through the Township. All these denominations have got houses of worship. Presbyterians alone have not lifted the Gospel standard.

During the evening I proceeded to visit some families in the north part of the Township, and found them all warmly attached to our cause, and very anxious to have the Word and ordinances dispensed among them, according to the custom of their forefathers. On Saturday I went to Oro, where I was to preach on Sabbath. This Township lies high and touches Lake Simcoe on the west side. About seventeen years ago a settlement of coloured people was formed in this Township, having received a grant of land from the Government. They have done little for themselves in a temporal point of view, and their spiritual interests, like the rest of their race in the Province, have been much neglected. Most of the Township is settled with Scotch, one-half of whom speak the Gaelic. They have built a beautiful church, which was opened by Dr. Burns last winter. It is not yet seated, but they expect to have it done during the summer. On Sabbath forenoon we met in the church. The attendance was respectable—mostly English. Our Gaelic brethren not understanding my tongue, but few of them attended. After the sermon, I received a hearty shake hands from an old soldier who had served his country in a foreign land, and had now retired on his pension. He came that morning eighteen miles to hear the sermon. He was getting old, he said, and "as Presbyterian ministers seldom came that way, he wished to hear one again before he died, from the Church of his Fathers." In the afternoon we met for Divine service in a school-house about three miles east from the church. The house was filled long before the time of meeting. When I arrived, I could scarcely get in. During the service there was a marked attention, and all the external symptoms of seriousness.

Before concluding this letter, I may state two things that made a strong impression on my mind. *First*—the great and growing zeal in religious matters, diffused over all classes in the Western part of the District, but especially among the young, where our worthy Catechist Mr. Marr labours. He stands in great need of a pious Missionary to strengthen his hands in the work. *Second*—the great spiritual destitution of this part of the Province. From Lake Simcoe to Owen Sound, a distance of more than a hundred miles, and embracing ten townships, all containing more or less Presbyterian families, and one of them one hundred and twenty. We have neither a stationed minister nor missionary. Some of these townships are never visited—others only at intervals of six months. I make these statements for the consideration of the friends of the Home Mission, and with the hope that the Presbytery will not overlook the spiritual destitution of this part of the missionary field, in making the summer arrangements for supplying destitute localities. A Gaelic student would receive a hearty welcome in any of these townships, and he might be the better of it all his days. There is spiritual life there, and the circumstances would be favourable to his growth in personal religion. The Ladies of Hamilton, with a very considerable zeal, have raised funds to support a missionary in the western part of this field. I hope they will soon find one. His services are much wanted. The field is large, and "white to harvest, and the labourers are few." May the Lord of the harvest send forth labourers into his vineyard.

I remain, Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM KING.

## PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

*Extracts from Report of Rev. Alexander McLean to the Conference.*

I. NIAGARA, CROSS ROAD.—During the nine days of my mission here, I preached eight times, attended two funerals, a teachers' meeting and visited about twenty-five families. Many here long for the bread of life, in the regular ministrations of the Word, and there is a better religious atmosphere now than in June last. Trial has been fruitful of good to many. Meetings for prayer and religious improvement are sustained with increasing interest, more read the Bible, pray over its truths, and long for light therein, than formerly. Met two of the soldiers at the barracks. How pleasing to find, in the quarters of the soldier, the pursuits of peace! Here is a well selected library of well read works. The owner is versed in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and is in a great measure self-taught, and better than all else, his acquirements seem all laid at the feet of his Master. Would there were many such, and that all who love our great Captain of Salvation would encourage such soldiers, until men should "learn war no more." Examined one applying for baptism—was happy to find the evidences of the Lord's work exhibited in meekness. Preached, and baptised two children. May the fragrance of Christ's garden, which has begun to flow forth here, increase unto more grace, and rest with a savour of life upon many who are indifferent or careless.

II. ALDBORO.—February 1st, set out for this place, two hundred miles distant from Niagara. Owing to the rain and the badness of the roads, it was Wednesday ere I left Hamilton for the West, but I was enabled in safety to reach the Church of Aldboro' in time for the service on Sabbath the 7th. Found a large and most attentive audience waiting on the Gospel message. On Sabbath, February 21st, the audience larger and more attentive still—some having walked thirteen miles in the snow that morning to Church. A scene of interest occurred here. Two children, about thirteen years of age, came forward for baptism, upon their own previous confession. Their mother, a widow, stood with her fatherless ones, to encourage them in their self-dedication to the service of Christ; but they took the vows of God upon themselves, were baptised, and taken under the care of the Church. May the great and good Shepherd defend them with his arm, and "carry these lambs in his bosom." This congregation is resolved to call a Pastor. There are some who prefer the Gaelic language, but nearly all understand the English. Aldboro' is about fifty miles from London—a most healthful, busy Township, upon the shores of Lake Erie.

III. OXFORD is the next Township West, and similar to Aldboro' in beauty, richness, and salubrity. I preached in the school-house on the 9th February, to a crowded audience; and again on the 18th, when a solemn awe rested upon us, many seeming to feel the importance of the theme, and some asking the way of life. I was asked to preach in the evening at Clear Creek, and though there was no notice given before one o'clock, P. M., the house was crowded with those who came pouring in from their new woodland farms.

IV. HOWARD is the next Township to Oxford; its village is Morpeth—a small, but healthful, thriving place, of good promise. Preached in Morpeth in the cottage of Adam Ludlaw, Esq., and baptised his first-born son, on the evening of Sabbath, 14th February, after having preached in the morning to a crowded audience in the interior of the Township. On Monday evening preached in Rushton's school-house, in another part of Howard, to about two hundred or two hundred and fifty hearers; and again in Morpeth, to a crowded audience, on the evening of the 21st, after having preached in Aldboro', thirteen miles distant. There are about sixty families of professed Presbyterians in this Township, and they are determined to build a Church. On the 2nd of March, upon our return from Tilbury, the Rev. Mr. McKinnon of St. Thomas, preached and presided in Howard, at the ordination of Messrs.

Bell, Mackinlay, and Mackenzie, who, after previous nomination and examination, were solemnly ordained to the office of Elders, and two young applicants for membership were committed to the care of this newly formed Session. In the afternoon preached again, and the services of the day seemed hallowed to many. Upon request, I lectured in Morpeth on Wednesday evening, on Paul's self-denial in what was good and our duty in regard to what is evil, especially referring to the pernicious habits of drinking. This was also a solemn service, and was succeeded by two baptisms. I shall long remember the unaffected and generous kindness and hospitality experienced in this Mission thus far. A Sabbath School is in progress in Morpeth, under the care of a late resident in London. Religious services are sustained on Sabbaths at the house of one of the Elders, with good results.

V. HARWICH is the next Township to Howard. I preached here on Monday evening, 22nd February, to a crowded congregation, in the house of Mr. McKay, who came twelve miles to Morpeth to request a sermon. A Methodist preacher and his hearers left the school-house, and were present with us. The attention here was most encouraging. A number of Collectors have been appointed, to gather and send in means to the Mission fund, and to obtain supply, and there is good promise of success in their efforts.

VI. TILBURY EAST.—This is a new Township. The congregation are mostly settled on the new road, about thirty-five miles West from Morpeth. I went by Chatham, a great road—a third longer than the right way. Met great kindness at Mr. McKellar's, beyond Chatham, was informed that there were seven hundred Scotch people in the parts contiguous to Chatham. Proceeded from Mr. McK.'s across the icy plains, and plunged into the forest. The snow was deep, the track only for a sleigh, and hence too narrow for my vehicle, but by cautious driving, after passing over logs, stumps, and fences of brush, I made my way in safety to Mr. Angus Grant's, whose house is used as a place of worship, until a Church is built upon a lot which he has given for that purpose; was grateful for the dangers escaped, and the kindness received. On Thursday evening I was joined by the Rev. Mr. McKinnon, at Mr. Oswald's, where we were happy in the Christian hospitality of his family. In the evening a goodly number came for examination for membership, and the time was spent in this solemn duty, in which were exhibited many tokens of the work of the Lord in the souls of the applicants for admission into the visible fold of the great Shepherd. Of the thirty-four members of this little Church in the wilderness, all the heads of families were in the practice of family worship. The services on the occasion were all fraught with refreshing influences—the Lord seemed to visit his vineyard. The public services began on Friday morning, and I preached at 11 A. M.; Mr. McKinnon in the afternoon, and presided at the ordination of Messrs. Coutts and Graham, and the reception of Mr. Oswald, who was ordained in Scotland. This was a scene of great interest. The new Session was constituted, and the members examined and received, exhibiting marked manifestations of tender consciences and praying hearts. There seemed also a flowing together of heart, and an interchange of good will among the people. On Saturday we both preached, and six baptisms took place. The Spirit seemed there to cleanse, refresh, and prepare for the Lord's hallowed day. Of the sermons on the Sabbath I can only say, that they were precious to many, and I trust a blessing to all; and we came away renewed in strength by the interchange of good, and happy in the recollections of the Church in the wilderness.

On our return we found the people at all the stations engaged in meetings or collections in behalf of their starving brethren in Europe. On my way to Hamilton I preached, Sabbath morning, 7th March, three times in London; on Monday evening at Ingersoll, to a large audience in the new Church. This last is an important point, and calls for care. On Tuesday evening examined a member applying, preached, and baptised, in