

in getting a proper teacher, sometimes from a difficulty in getting up a school-house, and sometimes from a difference amongst the people concerned, as to the place where the school should be situated. These evils might be greatly remedied by the services and advice of a Clergyman. And not only is the education of the young frequently lost sight of, but I have seen, throughout the District I have travelled, children of Presbyterians at all ages, from infancy to manhood, unbaptized. This is in some measure to be attributed to carelessness on the part of parents, but chiefly to the want of Ministers at whose hands they could receive this sacrament for their children. These are some of the circumstances that point out the spiritual destitution of the Presbyterians of Canada, and the claims they have upon the sympathy, prayers, and aid of the Church to which they professedly belong.

In Aldborough and Eckfrid, we held congregational meetings in order to ascertain what were the sentiments of the people respecting the late disruption in the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, in both which places there were numerous meetings, and a unanimous declaration in favour of Free Church principles. In Chatham we held one on Thursday last, the 20th Feb., for the same purpose, but owing to the day, and the state of the roads, not many attended. There are a few unfavourable to the Free Church in the congregation at Chatham, and there were some of these present at the meeting, but they left us without offering any opposition. The rest cordially joined the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and immediately after the meeting commenced a subscription towards a salary for a Minister, that they might call him as soon as possible.

#### INDIA.

Sir Henry Hardinge, Governor General of India, has signalled his Government by issuing an order from which we give an extract, and which will exercise a most important influence on the Educational Institutions of the East, generally,—and will powerfully tend to introduce not only educated but Christian men into all Departments of the civil service. A leavening process will thus be accelerated, which, spreading throughout every corner of that mighty land, will in the end make Christian light and saving truth to chase away the idolatry and the darkness which now prevail. The government order referred to runs thus:—

The Governor General, having taken into his consideration the existing state of education in Bengal, and being of opinion that it is highly desirable to afford it every reasonable encouragement, by holding out to those who have taken advantage of the opportunity of instruction afforded to them, a fair prospect of employment in the public service, and thereby not only to reward individual merit, but to enable the State to profit as largely and as early as possible by the result of the measures adopted of late years, for the instruction of the people, as well by the government as by private individuals and societies, has resolved, that, in every possible case a preference shall be given, in the selection of candidates for public employment, to those who have been educated in the institutions thus established; and especially to those who have distinguished themselves therein by a more than ordinary degree of merit and attainment. The Governor General is, accordingly, pleased to direct, that it be an instruction to the Council of Education, and to the several local committees and other authorities charged with the duty of superintending public instruction throughout the provinces subject to the Government of Bengal, to submit to that government at an early date, and subsequently on the first of January in each year, returns of students who may be fitted, according to their several degrees of merit and capacity, for such of the various public offices as, with reference to their age, abilities, and other circumstances, they may be deemed qualified to fill.

#### VISITATION OF NIAGARA DISTRICT, BY A DEPUTATION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Deputation from the Presbytery of Hamilton, consisting of the Rev. John Byrne, of Galt, and the Rev. G. Smellie, of Fergus, appointed to visit various places in the Niagara District, with the object of preaching the gospel, explaining the reasons of the late separation from the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland, and ascertaining the number of the Presbyterian population in these places who adhere to Free Church principles, and look to the Presbytery for supply of gospel ordinances, proceeded on their tour at the time fixed. But owing to the unusual severity of the weather, and the deep snow blocking up the roads, which actually interrupted the passage of the mail for several successive days, they were unable to keep their appointments at St. Catharines and Niagara on Wednesday the 5th, and Thursday the 6th of Feb. respectively. They, however, accomplished being at Beamsville on Friday, the 7th, and held a meeting in the evening in the Rev. Mr. Silver's Church. Though scarcely expected there for the same reasons which prevented their getting to the other places mentioned, a considerable number of the inhabitants of the village assembled. The Deputation were supported by the Rev. G. Cheyne, and the Rev. A. Mackintosh, also members of the Presbytery. Mr. Bayne delivered an able exposition of the principles they had appeared to assert: Mr. Cheyne also addressed the meeting, and Mr. Smellie concluded by briefly vindicating the Deputation and the Church which they represented, from the charge of unnecessary agitation.

The Deputation arrived at Wellandport on Saturday the 8th, about noon. But from the cause already stated, the requisite intimation had not preceded them, and there was consequently, no meeting there that day. Mr. Bayne returned to Beamsville, to preach there on Sabbath forenoon, and at Gainsborough in the evening. At the latter of these places, after preaching, he briefly stated the other object of the Deputation, and gave an opportunity to those who wished to make any inquiries regarding the subject of his statements. Mr. Smellie remained at Wellandport to preach there and in the neighborhood on the same day, and to intimate a meeting for Monday. The meeting on that day (Monday) was spirited, addresses were delivered; Mr. Mackintosh, who accompanied the Deputation, spoke on the occasion, and the sense of those present was taken by a show of hands, when it was found that there was a unanimous feeling in favour of Free Church principles. The Deputation next travelled to Dunnville, spent the earlier part of the 11th in calling upon different parties, and making known the object of their commission, which was found by them to be a good preparation for a meeting, and worthy of attention in succeeding appointments of a similar nature, for a large and respectable audience assembled, composed of persons of different denominations, some Episcopalians, who travelled several miles to be present, and remained with great patience to the close of the meeting, at a late hour of the evening. A sermon was preached on the occasion, and then the subject of the Deputation's more immediate mission was laid before the meeting. Mr. Isaac Buchanan's liberal grant was announced, and intimation made by parties interested in the place, of a meeting to be held at a future period, in order to take immediate steps for erecting a church in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The meeting seemed enthusiastic, and the Deputation left Dunnville much pleased with their visit, and proceeded to Cayuga. Thro' the kindness of friends of another denomination, and the liberal feeling of the Minister, the use of the Episcopal chapel there was obtained for them. A respectable audience had assembled at the time they arrived, and they proceeded immediately to fulfil their duty. There was first a sermon, and

then an exposition of principles, as in the former cases. There was a decided declaration in favour of Free Church principles, and several parties were wanting to receive baptism for their children, who, by giving satisfactory evidence of their title to such privilege, had the ordinance administered to them. At York, the meeting being fixed for the forenoon, when most of the population are actively engaged at their respective vocations, was not so numerously attended as might have been expected. The Deputation were, however, here as in other places, treated with great kindness. At Caledonia in the evening of the same day, (the 13th) there was a most encouraging meeting.

In all places that were visited, the gospel was preached, and listened to with apparently great attention and interest. The meetings when not accompanied with such services at the time, were invariably opened and closed with prayer to the great Head of the Church. A collection was made at Beamsville, in behalf of the Home Mission Fund. After the discussion of the subjects brought forward, opportunities were offered to all who wished further information, or had objections to offer, to put questions to the deputation; and in some cases this was done with the most satisfactory results. In general, the Deputation after explaining the object, left it with the parties themselves to draw up and pass resolutions of adherence to this body, where that had not been done; and to take steps to organize congregations and raise funds for the Home Mission, urging at the same time the propriety of these measures.

The Deputation were impressed by their experience with the importance, in the event of future appointments of this kind, of holding all meetings in the evening, particularly in villages, and during moonlight, and of spending some time previous to each, at least one day, in the neighbourhood.— [Con.]

N B.—The places which the Deputation were prevented from visiting according to appointment, will be visited by them as soon as the roads become practicable.

WOOLWICH.—In addition to the above statement, and as connected with the same series of visitations, we may mention that the congregation of Woolwich has been visited, according to appointment of the Presbytery of Hamilton, by the Revd. Messrs. Bayne and Gale, with the most satisfactory results. On very short notice, and on a week day, a house full of people assembled.—After sermon, the congregation was addressed by Mr. Bayne, who explained in his usual clear and impressive manner, the position of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the reasons by which she had been constrained to assume that position—exposing the futility of the objections urged by certain parties against the course pursued by the rulers of the Presbyterian Church, and the insufficiency and unworthiness of the pretences on which some endeavour to justify their adherence to connexion with the Scottish Establishment, professing at the same time to hold the principles of the Free Church. The congregation was then briefly addressed by Mr. Gale, and by Messrs. Davidson and Ganoca—two of their Elders—as to their present duty and prospects in regard to the means of grace. The tenor and spirit of the observations made by the last mentioned Elder, afforded an appropriate confirmation of Mr. Bayne's previous reasonings. This old and experienced christian ruler—who is a native of that district in Scotland, which recently witnessed the grievous profanations of Marnoch and Culsaïmond, and which had long lain spiritually prostrate under the deadening influence of moderateism, evidently felt the full value of the principles involved in the recent movement; and the duty of every christian and christian church to be found on the side of those who maintain them, and are witnessing for them. He evidently felt there was no place for hesitation or neutrality, and this was manifestly the prevailing sentiment in this little congregation. They