

that blinds them here, and to go forth on this great enterprise. Sir, the instance of such men as these, just when they might warrantably, after all their struggles, and all their efforts—have been seeking respite and rest for the remaining years of their life entering on a field of such duty and such labour, where they must expect so many privations and endure so many hardships,—leaving comfortable homes and attached flocks for this great work, undaunted by all its difficulties, is no ordinary event. Let men say as they will, we will venture to call this a great thing—a great thing for the individuals themselves to do in a right spirit—a great thing for congregations, so numerous, so attached, to consent to—a great thing for a Church so attached to her standard-bearers, and from whose ranks time is so rapidly thinning them out, to sanction and accomplish—a great thing for Australia to receive—a thing which stamps at once the effort now making for planting a pure and true Presbyterian Church there, with our full measure of approbation—our desire to advance it at whatever cost to ourselves. But while it is a great thing, it is not too great a thing. If we are to send men to occupy this great field, we must not grudge our best men, both young and old. We are founding empires there, and we should not grudge those who will command the attention and respect of all who are engaged in the work. We are assisting in laying the foundation of a new branch of the Christian Church; and never are materials worse spared than in the foundation. We are taking our position in that great land, and all the future will depend on that position being rightly and influentially taken—(Cheers.)

But while events are pressing on us the importance of Australia, we must not forget other portions of our field in the same regions of the earth. New Zealand will doubtless rise with its wealthier neighbours; and its pleasant climate and fertile soil, will probably receive many who may dislike the bustle of a more active community. And this year we have been able to supply Auckland, the seat of Government. Wellington, another New Zealand capital, has also been supplied. A new body of settlers are about to go to Otago, and with them we expect to send a minister. New Plymouth, also, has lodged its call with us, and we confidently expect that by next year we will have the materials of a Synod in these islands.

But important as these Australasian regions are, we feel in no degree drawn from other spheres in the same region equally interesting. It will be remembered that two or three years since a proposal was made to send a minister to Agra, and so to enter on the great field of northern India. At length this important step has been taken. The Rev. Mr. Clarke has gone to Agra with

every prospect of being cordially received. Last year it was our sad duty to announce that the important church at Calcutta was vacant by the resignation of the Rev. J. M'Nail. That vacant congregation has, however, been supplied by another of our beloved brethren, Rev. J. Milne, under a deep feeling of his own duty to the great Head of the Church, and in the midst of the tears and regrets of one of the largest congregations which any minister ever rejoiced in, offering himself for that work. The necessary steps were taken, and on the 20th day of April, Mr. Milne left Southampton for this new charge in Calcutta, who will doubtless see in this a proof of our anxiety to sympathise with them, and to suffer all things for their sakes.

Leaving the East, and passing to the fields of labour which have been longer familiar to the Church, the committee have also important and agreeable intelligence to communicate to the Assembly. Amidst the desolations of that dreadful fever which has laid low so many in the West Indies, it is matter of recognition and thankfulness, that while our ministers and missionaries laboured with the most unrelenting diligence amid the sick and dying—and though some of them have lost members of their households and members of their families, and have had themselves to seek a change of climate, yet they are still spared to us, and in some part of the same field or another are all giving themselves to the work of the Lord. The Portuguese in Trinidad continue under the care of Mr. Vieira, and they have sent him home, with an earnest request, that he might receive ordination at the hands of this Church, which we hope it may be found possible to give.

In Canada, the operations of the Committee for the year have not been many, but they have been important. At the last meeting of Assembly, it was stated that the Free Church, Quebec, was in progress. Being now completed, the congregation sent one of their number, James Gibb, Esq., to Scotland, for the purpose of procuring the services of one of our ministers for that important charge. In fulfilment of this mission, Mr. Gibb left one of the largest businesses in America, not to spend weeks only, but months in this country. During all that time he continued in close communication with the Colonial Committee, and at length we cordially agreed in asking the Rev. Thomas Clark of Maxwellton, Dumfries, to go to Quebec. With that devotedness which is so refreshing to see amongst even the more advanced of our ministers, Mr. Clark, after much anxious consideration, and in the midst of the most unfeigned testimonies of affection, agreed to go, and has now for some time filled that important sphere. We have now, therefore, the happiness of seeing the great frontier cities of our American empire filled with ministers, whose names, for