

Protestants; not to speak of her exalted position as a National Church upholding the great doctrine, denied by the unsound Dissenters, that the Lord is Head both of the Kirk and of the kingdom—that “the kingdom is the Lord’s; and that He is the Governor among the nations”^{*}—nor of her being the beloved Kirk of a land dear to some of you—the land of arts and arms, of romance and song, of mighty and glorious deeds—in a word the Kirk so much loved and attended by your Sovereign, Her most Gracious Majesty, the Queen, whom God bless and preserve; to say nothing of all this, nor even of the great work she is performing abroad; a work lately noticed in an English paper † setting forth her many schemes and missionary operations over the world, together with the vast amount of her collections raised in Scotland for these objects, showing the strong hold she has on the attachment of the people of Scotland, ‡ and calling forth the unqualified admiration even of those not belonging to her communion—to say nothing of her labors in other lands, and confining your view simply to what she has done for Canada, how manifold are her claims to your regard! Go back fifty years to the time when your unenclosed forests heard only the howl of the wolf and bear, or the warwhoop of the Indian; when the rude log-house was pitched where your cities now stand; when missions were few, and these chiefly devoted to the Church of Rome, and even then you find Missionaries from the Scottish Church carrying the blessed tidings of salvation through your land, and laboring to convert idolators to the pure faith of Jesus. Schools at that time were few, and the educated ministers of the Kirk supplied the want by giving to the natives at once the blessings of Christianity and the benefits of knowledge and civilization. As in ages far remote, the early missionaries of the cross and pious Culdees first imparted these blessings to Caledonia, so these Caledonians imparted them to Canada. Engaged in this good work of preaching the Gospel, and training up the young in religious and secular knowledge, who can estimate the blessings they imparted! When many years had passed, and when the luxuriant foliage of the forest had nearly overgrown the old log-house where they first lived, how many good people of Canada have I met in their sylvan retreats, who told me they were indebted for all the learning and religion they ever had to the good old Scotch ministers who long ago had christened them, given them Bibles, and preached to them Jesus! How many a “wilderness and solitary place was made glad” by the approach of these Scottish missionaries, who scattered around them the blessings of religion and humanity, as did others of the same nation in other lands, such as Moffat and Livingstone in Africa, Duff in India, Burns in China, Geddie in Erromango, McGregor in Nova Scotia, McDonald in Prince Edward Island, and countless others over the world. I say, look to the time when Canada received, so to speak, her Protestant education at the hands of our Scottish ministers, and you will estimate the debt of gratitude she owes to their Church. And while working the good work how many their hardships and perils. How many highly educated Scotch ministers, such as Drs. Mathieson, Urquhart, Machar, McDonald, and hundreds more (the last named had no fewer than a dozen Gaelic congregations under his charge in Prince Edward Island, all which he left

^{*} Psalms xxii. 28.

† London *Telegraph*, copied into *Church of Scotland Record*, Jan. 1874.

‡ The gift of half a million pounds to the Scotch Church lately, by Mr. Baird, is sufficient proof of this.