

places thousands, assembled to hear the Word of God preached in their native tongue.

By the union of two adjoining congregations, in each case there might easily be formed four parochial districts, each capable, with the exception of one, I am convinced, of supporting a minister in competence and comfort. And as to their willingness, I may mention a fact that came under my observation the other day. On the Monday after the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Earltown, a congregational meeting was called, for the purpose of taking steps to secure the services of a young man lately licensed in Canada, and at that time on an incidental visit among his friends. In a short time a stipend of L. 180 per annum was subscribed and guaranteed; but unfortunately he had made up his mind to labour, in preference, in Canada. They implored him to change his resolution. They appealed to him on the principles of duty and relationship, but in vain. The disappointment of old and young was very sad: expressed, as it was, in tears. The young man had accepted of a call from Canada, and could not, it seems, withdraw.

The more elderly portion of the community can be reached only through the medium of the Gaelic language, which renders it necessary to continue the administration of divine ordinances in that language for some years to come; but the rising generation, being for the most part well educated, can do very well without it.

Another Gaelic missionary would be of great use in this extensive field; but qualifications of a high order are necessary, especially a vigorous constitution—not so much to stand the climate as to stand the work—an ability to preach equally well in both languages, and, above all, a thorough and familiar acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures. It is reported, on the best authority, that a considerable number in Cape Breton are still attached to the Church of Scotland. An opportunity only is wanted to ensure the return of many to the Church of their Fathers, which they only left from dire necessity. A wish has lately been expressed by some in that island that a deputation from the Presbytery should visit them; but it is exceedingly difficult for the Presbytery to do so. Were another Gaelic missionary here it could be done with less inconvenience. Occasional visits could then be made, so as to open up the ground and organize congregations there. This wished-for accession to our numbers it may be too much to expect, until the young men from this province now studying in Scotland return.

I shall only add that the most cordial reception is given me everywhere, and that the kindly feeling evinced by the people in regard to comfort exceeds my anticipations, and stimulates me, I trust, to greater exertions in trying to promote their spiritual good.

In my next letter I hope to be able to give a more minute account of the state of the Church in this County.

I am, &c.,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

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