

M'Lean, since his arrival in the Province, has preached in the 4 places, although he has accepted a call from 2. One minister should therefore be sent out without delay to the East and West Branches, the 2 remaining congregations; and I fear that it is essential that he should have Gaelic; in the event of this being impossible, an English Clergyman would decidedly be better than none, and perhaps, by a system of exchanges with Mr. M'Lean, by making a sort of collegiate charge in the back settlements of Pictou, the wants of the population could be tolerably supplied. Passing now over the congregations of New Glasgow and M'Lennan's Mountains, which enjoy the services of Mr. Pollok and Mr. M'Gillivray, we come to the congregations of Barney's River and Lochaber, where we have churches and many staunch adherents. This important charge has been vacant for many years. At present the people receive occasional missionary visits from the few Clergymen who form the Presbytery; all of whom have more than enough to do in their own congregations, but who cannot allow their fellow-churchmen, residing so near them, to be wholly destitute of religious ordinances. These two places combined would form an excellent charge, and there again it is essential that the Clergyman have Gaelic.

CAPE BRETON.

In this populous island, which adjoins Nova Scotia, we had once a Presbytery, but at the Secession the ministers seceded, with the exception. I believe, of one, who returned to the Mother Country. None of the members of the Deputations from the Church of Scotland had time to go to this island with the exception of one, who visited portions of it, but who was not acquainted with Gaelic, the language generally spoken there. For years afterwards no visits were paid, and no further information received. In 1851 the census was taken, and it brought out the fact that there were still nearly 5000 people there adhering to the Church of Scotland. Still there was no one who could be sent to visit them. In the summer of 1854 the Rev. Mr. Martin, of Halifax, though advanced in life, and ignorant of the Gaelic language, at length determined to pay a visit to the island; and on his return he sent Home a report of his mission, which was published in the *Record*. He found that, notwithstanding their long privations, there were still many staunch adherents of the Church of Scotland. Another year passed without anything more having been done in their behalf. The Synod of Nova Scotia, at its last meeting, took up their case, and appointed one of the Gaelic Ministers of Pictou to pay a visit to the island for a period of two or three weeks. This appointment was fulfilled by the Rev. Mr. M'Lean in October last, but I have not heard anything as to the state in which he found the adherents of our Church there. At least one Gaelic missionary should be sent to that island immediately, unless our cause there is to be relinquished for ever, and our people compelled to live without the ordinances of Religion, or to connect themselves with bodies of whose principles and feelings they cannot approve.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

After many years of melancholy spiritual destitution the adherents of our Church in this Presbytery are at present somewhat better supplied on account of the recent translation of Mr. M'Kay to Belfast, and the labours of Mr. Harper at Georgetown. Although there is a great necessity for one or two more Clergymen, I would not be disposed to mention any place in this island as at all equally necessitous with those to which I have already alluded, so long at least as the valuable services of Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. M'Kay and Mr. Harper are enjoyed at the important stations which they now occupy.

Merely to glance at the neighbouring provinces, I may mention that our Church in New Brunswick is also in urgent need of several additional labourers; and as, for Canada, I have been told by our Clergymen from that province that the Church there might be doubled at once, if there were Ministers to supply their wants.

But, to confine myself to the field with which I have been more immediately connected, in order to supply the wants of those who are suffering the most painful and prolonged spiritual destitution, simply because of their attachment to the Church of Scotland, it is essential that not less than 7 Missionaries be sent out without delay. If possible, at least 3 of them should have a knowledge of Gaelic. As to their salaries, I believe, they will be nearly all paid in the country. St. Andrews, Halifax, is perfectly able and, I believe, willing to pay for the services of the Clergyman it may receive. I may say the same of Wallace, of the Rogers' Hill District, and of the East and West Branch. With reference to the other 3, the Clergyman of Barney's River and the Missionaries in the Halifax Presbytery, and in Cape Breton, a considerable portion of their salaries may have to be raised from other sources than from the people among whom they labour; but I may mention that, in order to meet such cases, a general Home Mission Fund was instituted by the Synod last year; and, from the sums already subscribed, I believe there will be no difficulty in raising annually, and chiefly from the wealthy members of the Church, £300, the sum contemplated by the founder of the Scheme.—*H. & F. Miss. Record for February.*

THE REV. JAMES MURRAY, BATHURST, N. B.

We are sorry to learn that this young, active and promising Minister has been obliged from ill health to leave his charge for a time, and to try the benefit of a sea-voyage. He had been complaining for some time, and was frequently unable to appear before his people on Sabbath. The hard and constant work, in which he was wont to engage since his arrival three years ago, seems to have told heavily upon his physical constitution, which on his first appearance amongst us was far from being the strongest. In a communication which the writer received from him, just previous to his contemplated embarkation for Scotland, he states that he is at present acting under the recommendation of his medical adviser, who is of opinion that a sea-voyage, rest and change will be to his advantage. We know it was with much reluctance and much against his will that he felt himself compelled to follow this advice; and we deeply sympathise with our brethren of the Presbytery of Miramichi, who have been so soon called upon to grant him leave of absence. We look anxiously for accounts of his health, which, we sincerely trust, may be so far improved, by the change and through the enjoyment of his native air for a season, as to enable him to fulfil his intention of returning this month to his attached and admiring flock. He has a brother there whom we hold in high estimation for his amiable manners, straight-forward conduct, and his many self-denying labours.—*Halifax Monthly Record for Feb.*

REV. JAMES MURRAY OF BATHURST.

We are happy to learn that this much esteemed young clergyman, who was compelled to leave his flock for a season from ill health, has profited by his excursion to the Mother Country. On Friday morning he came passenger in the Cunard Steamer from Liverpool to Halifax, and proceeded immediately after by the mail to New Brunswick, to resume his labours among his attached congregation at Bathurst.—*Ibid. for March.*

EFFORTS FOR MISSIONARIES.

We believe that no intelligence which we can communicate to the greater number of our readers is more welcome and acceptable at the present moment than the notices which we have lately published of the vigorous and, we trust, successful efforts to obtain suitable Gaelic Missionaries for the vacant congregations in these Provinces. The Colonial Committee certainly adopted a wise resolution when they agreed to send a deputation

under their authority to the different Scottish Universities, to bring the circumstances and wants of their fellow-countrymen in the Colonies freely and forcibly under the consideration of the students of divinity and preachers at these seminaries of learning and theology. Statements and representations of the moral and spiritual wants of strangers, living at a great distance, and in unfavourable circumstances, although they should be couched in the strongest and most forcible language, and appeal very earnestly to the religious feelings, are found to produce only a very feeble and transient impression. It the Priest and the Levite, even when they saw the man who had fallen among thieves, stripped of his raiment, wounded and half dead, shut up their bowels of compassion towards him, and in a cool and unfeeling manner passed by on the other side, it is not at all wonderful that those, who only read or hear of spiritual necessities and our long continued privations, should be very slightly affected, more especially when they are discouraged by ministers who had been formerly in the colonies, or perhaps have better situations in prospect or in their offer. But, when a dire and personal appeal is made to such individuals by ministers who have recently come from the field of destitution, who have surveyed it in its length and breadth; by clergymen who are personally acquainted with the excellent character and devoted attachment of the applicants and with their ability and willingness to support the ordinances of religion, when students and preachers in the Mother Country almost hear the longing complaints and mournful entreaties of the most steadfast friends of their own Church in the Colonies, the effect, as we shall soon see, is very different. The intelligence in our last number found the Rev. Mr. Spratt preparing to visit the University seats to arouse the minds of the students in favour of the Colonists. And we are now enabled from additional intelligence to announce the result of his appeal, so far as it had then manifested itself. "I have been," says this zealous and much respected young clergyman in a letter from Edinburgh of the 1st February, "to the different Universities, commissioned by the Committee to beat up for recruits for the Colonies. I went first to Aberdeen, and addressed the Divinity Students. I then stated that I would take the names of those who are to be licensed in May, and those of the year next the last, whose minds were made up to apply for Colonial appointments. Seven gave me in their names, among whom were the sons of Mr. McKenzie, formerly of Wallace, and of Mr. McRae of Pictou. At St. Andrews I also addressed the Hall, and received the names of several more. I addressed the Glasgow Students a fortnight ago, and, with the exception of one whose mind had been made-up previously, none resolved at once—but several told me they were strongly inclined, and requested time to consider. To-morrow morning I address the Edinburgh Students. Besides this I know definitely of one, who has been a most successful missionary in the Parish of one of my greatest friends, Mr. Cumming, of Perth. His application is already in the hands of the Committee, and I think you may expect him in Halifax early in March. I brought the whole state of the Colonial Church, so far as I knew it personally, before the minds of the students; and I hope not only those who are near license but others will be led to think of the field, and that those who remain at Home will also be influenced to make greater exertions than have been made in the past. I feel confident that there will soon be a great awakening in the Church, and that large missionary efforts will be made. The Colonial Committee has, as you will see in its last address, promised to advance the interests of these who do good service abroad."—*Halifax Monthly Record for March.*

The following letter, written by a gentleman lately returned from the Colonies, and appointed by the Colonial Committee to visit the different University seats in