

1. The Presbytery of Montreal, the Report proceeds thus—

In contemplating the field of our Home Mission, our attention is immediately attracted to the eastern section of the United Province, as exhibiting an extent of religious destitution far greater than any other portion of the bounds of the Church; aggravated, moreover, by circumstances peculiar to Canada East, and especially by the immense preponderance of the French Roman Catholic population over the Protestant, and the strength and influence of the Romish Hierarchy there. The eastern division of the Province, constituting heretofore Lower Canada, contains a large body of Presbyterians decidedly picking connection with our church, and desiring to enjoy at our hands the ministrations of the word and sacraments, and therefore forming an important part of the sacred trust which the great Head of the Church has committed to us. The simple fact that in this vast territory with its numerous population, and all its peculiar religious necessities and claims, we have only been able to set up for the purpose of spiritual superintendance and effort, one Presbytery, comprising only five settled ministers, may serve to convey a sufficiently vivid impression of the utter disproportion existing between the religious wants of this portion of the country, and the supplies which we have extended to it. Nor, indeed, does the foregoing statement give a just exhibition of the destitution of Canada East, for it must be remembered that this single Presbytery embraces within its bounds an extensive and populous section of Canada West; where two out of its five ministers are settled, leaving only three for the superintendance of the whole territory, and population formerly constituting Lower Canada. In the report presented by this Presbytery, nineteen stations or rather clusters of stations are enumerated, and more or less fully described as looking to this Church for the ordinances of religion.—Twelve of these are situated on the south side of the St. Lawrence, four on the north, and three in Canada West. The vacant congregations in Montreal and Quebec, are not, of course, included in this list. There seems to be reason to suspect that the above mentioned enumeration will be found defective and below the truth, when the Presbytery shall have made a more complete survey or inspection of its bounds; but taking the statement as it is presented by the Presbytery and giving due attention to the information furnished respecting the several localities, eight of these stations seem to have arrived at such a stage of strength and maturity as to be prepared to call and sustain settled pastors, making, with the addition of Quebec and Montreal, ten congregations in this Presbytery in which ministers are urgently required and could be planted with a fair prospect of success. The eleven other missionary districts, or rather preaching stations comprised by them severally, are in various stages of advancement, as to numbers and organization, but all of them are looking to us for help and possess strong claims on our attention and care, and not a few of them would soon become settled charges could the Synod extend to them, for a time, the services of discreet, faithful and devoted missionaries.

Metis, the most remote and perhaps the most necessitous of them all, is a signiory on the banks of the St. Lawrence, some 200 miles below Quebec. Having come into the possession of a Scotchman nearly forty years ago, a considerable number of Scotch families were induced to settle upon it, for whose religious interests no stated provision has ever been made, and who, for a long time, were wholly neglected. At a great distance from any other portion of the Protestant population and exposed in this isolated situation to the influence of Popery on all sides, with no evangelical ministrations to stay them, it is hardly possible to conceive of a state of things more unfavourable to the maintenance of even a nominal Protestantism, especially among the children and

descendants of the original settlers. But by the good hand of God sustaining, not only has the outward form been preserved, but, to some extent, the power of true religion has been all along manifested amongst them, and an ardent desire is still prevalent to obtain the regular ministrations of the word and sacraments in connexion with the Church of their fathers. In proof of this they offer to guarantee to a minister the sum of £15 in money, per an., and to find him a house with fire-wood and provisions. The peculiar interest attaching to this locality and its people, will be at once felt by every member of the Synod, and it is with great satisfaction your Committee again refer to the stationing of Mr. Samuel Keedy amongst them, for the present summer, under the circumstances already adverted to. Having a considerable command of the French language, it is hoped that Mr. Keedy, who is a person of a mild, yet zealous and thoroughly evangelical spirit, will be instrumental, through the divine blessing, both in strengthening the influence of Protestantism, and true religion, among the Presbyterian settlers, and in extending it among the French Canadian population around them. Upon the whole no room is left for doubt, as it appears to your Committee, but that the religious destitution existing in this section of the Church, is much more extensive than that of any other portion of our bounds, and that it is urgently required of the Synod to put forth, and that without delay, some adequate efforts for its relief. This claim, he it observed, is altogether independent of the duty of this Church, to seek by all available Scriptural means, the enlightenment and emancipation of the great mass of French Canadian Roman Catholics, who are our fellow-subjects, part and parcel of our social and political system, and with whom, in the providence of God, our social and civil interests are intimately bound up. It may, perhaps, be questioned whether the Synod ought not to apply itself more directly and vigorously to the evangelization of this great section of our population, than it has done heretofore. But, however that question may be decided, it is manifestly our duty to do our utmost to nourish and strengthen the existing Protestantism of Canada East, by planting and sustaining some adequate number of faithful ministers and missionaries in that region. By such means, a powerful and most satisfactory influence would be brought to bear in all quarters on the surrounding masses of Popery, through the growth and extension of spiritual religion in our congregations and stations, and the consequent practical exhibition of its good and happy fruits, in the view of their Roman Catholic neighbours.

In the distribution of missionaries arranged by the Committee in April, five only could be assigned to this Presbytery, with justice to other claims. In addition to these, however, who with one exception, are Theological Students, and can only continue their services for five or six months, the Presbytery has within its bounds three ordained missionaries, whose labours are almost constantly given to one particular locality each, viz. the Rev. Messrs. Gordon, Swinton, and Cameron.

2. The Presbytery of Brockville comes next in order. Its bounds are, as compared with most of the other Presbyteries, small, including a territory of some twenty-five or thirty miles square, which, moreover, has been long settled, and which, therefore, presents but a limited field for missionary operations. In this Presbytery, however, there are four stations of considerable importance; two of which, it is understood, would unitly form a suitable pastoral charge.

3. The Presbytery of Perth. Its bounds lie immediately in the rear of those of Brockville, and thus comprehend the more newly settled portion of that section of the country. In the Record for May, there is an interesting report of the Home Mission of this Presbytery, but want of room prevents us from inserting it here. We can only state that there are four important congregations vacant in this Presbytery; besides an extensive missionary field lying on both sides of the Ottawa, above and below Bytown.

4. The Presbytery of Kingston next claims attention, and we regret that the report from it is not more full. The following statements, however, will give some idea of the extent and condition of the Home Mission Field in this quarter:—

The Kingston Presbytery, as at present constituted, reaches from the rear of Gananoque, to the rear of Belleville. It contains seven regular charges, and ten Mission Stations. The latter come more immediately within the range of the Presbyterial Home Mission. There are five in the vicinity of Kingston, one in Napanee, one in the Township of Hiller, and three in Madoc.—Till the month of May last, we had four additional in the Townships of Huntingdon and Tyendinaga, in the rear of Belleville. But these have been formed into a distinct ministerial charge and taken off our hands by the settlement over them of our esteemed brother, the Rev. Andrew Hudson. Napanee is represented as a station of much importance, and, as affording, at present, a promising field for the labours of a missionary with the prospect of becoming, at no distant period, a regular pastoral charge, in connection with one or two stations in Camden or Sheffield.—The Township of Madoc, thirty or forty miles in rear of Belleville, seems still more important and promising, possessing, as it already does, about one hundred Presbyterian families, among whom, it is stated, there is a goodly number of men of devoted piety, and more than ordinary intelligence. They make the strongest representations as to the extent of their spiritual necessities, and their anxiety to secure the services of one or two missionaries—with a view to a permanent settlement—and they have two churches in progress of erection. The minister who communicates these particulars, which are founded upon his personal observation and knowledge, speaks in the highest terms also of the physical and material resources of Madoc; the soil, according to his report, being admirably adapted for the growth of the staple crops of the country, and abounding at the same time with valuable minerals. The Morrison Iron Works are situated in this neighbourhood, and the whole surrounding district teems with the ore. So that as soon as capital and skill are brought effectually to bear on these resources, Madoc must necessarily become one of the richest and most influential townships in the Province.

5. The Presbytery of Cobourg have the following missionary districts and stations under their care:

1. Darlington, ready for a settled pastor, and anxious to obtain one as soon as possible. Mr. John Smith is supplying here with a fair prospect of usefulness. There are two congregations connected, about eight miles apart, with good churches at both places, though the congregations are not large.

2. Percy and Alnwick. These places are about twenty miles from the front and nine miles apart. The only supply they have ever had has been occasional visits by the ministers of the Presbytery, until this year, when Mr. McIlfarick has been sent to them, and we hope they will be supplied, at least, every alternate Sabbath, for the summer. They have commenced, by a subscription of about £30, to assist the Presbytery in paying the salary of the missionary.

There are about twenty Presbyterian families at Percy, and fifteen at Alnwick, besides a number of others who attend the service.

3. Cartwright and Manvers, like Percy, are about twenty miles from the front. The former has been for some time connected with Darlington, and had occasional visits of the missionary supplying there. But these places are anxious to unite and obtain the services of a stated minister. They are about to build a church in each of the Townships, which will be about eight miles apart. They engage to pay £75 per annum, which is