

CALEDOX, 25th July, 1847.

by accepting of presentations to parishes in it; and, from our own inability to supply Glengary, it has been more abundantly supplied by the deputies of the Free Church; and in a letter of Mr. McIlvray, contained in the Free Church Record for August, and in the letter of Mr. Fraser, which we have now the pleasure of publishing, our readers will see how greatly God has blessed their labours.

Let us also learn from Mr. Fraser's letter how a reviving in all our congregations may be brought about—not certainly by laudable wishes for it, and a feeble, lifeless ministry of the word and ordinances, but as the result of earnest and persevering prayer and of an affectionate, earnest, and powerful ministry of the divine word—and all through the mighty working of the holy spirit.

We commend to our readers the appeal made by Mr. Fraser, in the close of his letter. Let us remember him, and the people who are awakened to seek after Christ, in our prayers. We shall be happy to report any sums that may be paid to our publisher, or to the Treasurer of any of the Committees of the Synod (see printed minutes for 1847, page 2nd), on account of a pious teacher for the inquirers in Glengary:—

To the Editor of the Record.

CORNWALL, October 13, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—It is about two years, or perhaps more, since the Free Church began her operations in the popular district of Glengary. At first, a spirit of enquiry was set on foot; but for several months there was no decided movement in favour of our principles. The crisis, however, could be seen in the distance. We have now five large congregations, some of them 1000 strong, and five or six more in a state of incipient. Give us labourers, and we will spread on every side. Our principles have gained a firm footing in the district: our stations are impregnable. The Free Church has sprung into full development in Glengary, like a gourd in a tropical clime. The Lord pour out his blessing on our newly-cultivated soil! We hope to see six new churches in this part of the field next season. They are at present in the course of erection.

That is progress. But while all this was going on, we longed to see a movement, of a far more important kind, among the people,—religion in a state of revival,—sinners asking the way to Zion. The masses were thrown into agitation when the news of the disruption at home came over, and the deputies of our church proclaimed, with zeal and ability, the causes of that signal event. But there was little of the power of the word to be seen. Those who feared the Lord were only here and there—like the last gleanings of the vintage, our spirits began to droop.

Blessed be God! a change has come; and never in the memory of the oldest settlers was there so favourable a state of things. The spirit of the Lord was at work, and we did not know it till now. The meetings are crowded. In every day of the week the people hold conventions for prayer, and the reading of the scriptures among themselves. The awakening is chiefly confined to the young; but a season of great refreshment has been given to the Lord's people. In many places, and even amid the solitudes of the woods, they meet together in groups, and spend hours, both night and day, at the throne of grace. Some, whose habits were a blot on the face of society, have been quite changed. At this season of the year the roads are in the worst state. My horse sunk in mud to the saddle girths, on my way this morning to a place where the people were to meet. The house was full: children, and old men and women, not a few of them bending over the grave, were there. Neither the rain, nor the difficulty, and even the danger, of travelling could deter them from the ordinances. Some are in a state of great distress; others seem to have found him of whom Moses

and the Prophets spoke. Solemnity was in every face; and while I tried to open up the doctrine of justification by faith, in a lecture in the 3rd chapter of the Epistle to the Galatians, I thought I could perceive by the smile of joy that gleamed upon the face, and the tear which trickled down the cheek of one here and there in the large assemblage, that the spirit of God was sending home the great and thrilling truth with power to the hearts. Let the church of the living God remember us in this great work, that the Lord would perfect that which concerneth us, and that we may not be put to confusion.

We have need of help. The burden is heavy, and we are but few. Mr. Drummond was here last week; he is gone to Montreal, and Dr. McGilvray is away. I am left to toil alone in this great field. Ye men of God! who have seen his glorious power in Scotland, on whose labours he has shed the smile of his acceptance, come over and help us! The Lord lay his hand upon your hearts, and draw you to us.

The revival began in the confines of the Rev. D. Clark's parish. It has spread to Martintown and the vicinity. The truth was preached in these places, some years ago, by one whose dust now sleeps beneath the pulpit of the church at Martintown. His memory is dear to those who sat under his honoured ministrations. The seed is now ripening which was cast into the soil by the hands of the devoted Mr. Connell. "The word of the Lord endureth for ever."

Mr. Drummond has been at work among the people. His labours will not, I am confident, be in vain. He does not preach in the Gaelic tongue, and, therefore, cannot be so extensively useful as he otherwise would be in this part of the country; but multitudes go to hear him. The simplicity of his style is an advantage.

Many of those who are in a state of anxious enquiry about their souls cannot read the scriptures in that language which is most familiar to them; and it is very desirable that they should. This letter will, no doubt, meet the eye of some who feel a deep interest in the prosperity of Christ's kingdom. Will they give no offering for the purpose of procuring a Gaelic teacher for these young enquirers? Let Christians' love respond, we ask it; and, to enforce our appeal, we point to the cross. Do you know him, brethren?

You will, in all probability, hear from our quarter soon again. Pray for us, and for those who, to all appearance, are in the transition state from sin to Christ. Be earnest in their behalf, that the Lord would keep them from declension—from delusion.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. FRASER.

P. S.—The residuary deputations, whose strange assertions took the country by surprise, paid a visit to this district a short time ago. They seemed to have passed through noiselessly. It was either not generally known that they were in the field, or no notice was taken of them. They held out large promises both of men and money. It was rather amusing to find them offering the latter commodity in parishes where the people, with the help of the Government allowance, used to support their ministers in comfort. But no influence was made on any of our adherents, so far as I know. I can tell these gentlemen that the people look with merited contempt on the efforts they have been making to buy off the friends of the Free Church. Let it be known to Scotland, and let it meet them, to their confusion, when they go back. We can tell them, and their confidants here can corroborate the statement, that all attempts on their part to recover the masses that have been struck off, by the force of conviction, from all alliance with the established church, will be in vain. The cause to which we are attached is destined to prevail. Our hope is in the potency of truth. Look at Glengary. Why persist in your hostility to a cause, which, in the face of every obstacle that you are putting in the way of its advancement, is gaining ground every day?

J. F.

DEAR SIR,—As I have lately made a missionary tour through part of the country bordering on Lake Simcoe, I beg leave to transmit to you the following account of it, leaving it to you to make such use of it as you may think proper. But, in doing so, it can hardly be expected that I should be able to communicate much that will be new, as the settlements visited by me on this occasion have been pretty fully described in reports published at different times in the Record. But, even in the absence of any thing new, it is well perhaps to bring repeatedly before the church the spiritual destitution that so extensively prevails among the dense and daily increasing population of our back settlements. To our church in particular, God appears to be entrusting the honourable though onerous task of making suitable provision for this destitution. This appears from the fact, that the great body of Presbyteries, in the new townships, have declared their adherence to our church, and are looking to it, and to it alone, for that supply of gospel ordinances which they need. May the hearts of the people be enlarged to the exercise of a larger measure of liberality in furnishing the means, without which there is no rational prospect of overtaking the work thus assigned them. With a view to this, it were well that every individual made himself thoroughly acquainted with the actual state of our missionary field, that united prayer might go up to the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into the harvest; and that the combined energies of our church might go forth to build up the waste places of our Zion. It is not, indeed, easy to give to individuals who have not personally witnessed both the state of destitution in which thousands live, and the eagerness with which they welcome the visits of your missionaries among them, so useful and clear a description of these things as would be necessary, in order to their feeling as they ought upon this subject. We are so constituted, that what we see with our eyes makes a much deeper impression upon our hearts than what we only hear or read of. Even our Saviour, notwithstanding his perfect knowledge of all things, was yet affected in a special manner by seeing before him a multitude, who were as sheep without a shepherd. And sure I am, if the true followers of Christ, throughout this land—those who have the same mind that was in him—something of the same love to souls that specially characterised him—could see with their own eyes the thousands, throughout this country, who mourn in a sort of spiritual captivity, far from those loved ordinances they formerly enjoyed in their father land, whose hearts are made sick by hopes long deferred—and the still greater numbers, young and old, who are actually perishing for lack of knowledge—more earnestness and importunity would characterise their prayers, and more of a self-denying liberality would appear in their contributions for the support and extension of the cause of Christ among us. But I find that these reflections are unconsciously leading me away from the primary object of this communication.

Some time in May last, I received a letter from the Clerk of the Presbytery, enclosing an extract from the minutes of Presbytery, requiring me to visit the congregation of Oro, as soon as convenient, in order to examine certain persons elected by the people, with a view to their being set apart by the Presbytery as Elders and Deacons in the congregation, and for other purposes mentioned in the letter. After I had fulfilled the appointments which I had made near home, I lost no time in entering on this mission. I left home on Thursday, the 27th May, and as I had a wish to visit my friends in Thorah, I resolved to take it in my way, intending to go round the east end of Lake Simcoe, and return by way of Oro and the adjoining settlements on the north side of the lake. I accordingly arrived at Beaverton, in Thorah, on Saturday morning; and finding, after consulting with some of the friends there, that Beaverton would be the most suitable place for an appointment on Sabbath, I remained there over Sabbath, and, though the notice was necessarily short, it was encouraging to see a numerous congregation assembled, at the