

in no such claim as the Westminster people were doing, who declined to co-operate with the people of London township on the same terms, although the same opportunity precisely had been afforded them; and who have come here to-day by their two representatives to tell us, that they would subscribe no obligation until they had first secured a third of our Minister's labours. These, sir, were sensible and liberal remarks. I have to say the same for myself and those families who live in my district. Like Mr. McF., they and I will be satisfied with receiving Dr. Skinner's visits during the week, and occasionally a sermon from him in the school-house on a week-day or evening. And, when health, weather and roads permit, we shall worship on the Sabbath with our brethren in London, and give our free-will offerings there, as the Lord hath prospered us.

Let me not be misunderstood, Sir; I speak not to the prejudice of our Westminster brethren; I know them well, and some of them long; I respect them highly; they are true Church-of-Scotland men. They have stood by us hitherto; and in the day of trial. I am accustomed to hold one of their representatives, Mr. Duncan McPherson, in very high esteem. He was an elder in one of the parishes of Argyllshire, and brought with him and his kindred credentials of rare excellence and honour. Since he came to this neighbourhood, some 5 or 6 years ago, he has stood by us as a true friend of the Benevolent Causes of our Synod. Nay, Sir, I am told that, although he declines subscribing any obligation, yet he says that he will not abandon us, that he, or some of his family, will be with us on the Sabbath in London to worship, and to hear Dr. Skinner, to whom he disavows any objection, even although the service at Westminster should be discontinued; and that he will contribute to the stipend of Dr. Skinner, and also to a salary for the Precursor. All this but accords with the opinion I have always held of Duncan McPherson. Let others follow his example. Let him and them do just as I, Mr. McF., and others in the country districts of London, design to do, and I am sure they will have their own proportion of our minister's services; and that, so far as Dr. Skinner's labours have hitherto been shared in by them, a pledge has been given them, that he will not neglect them; but will be ready both to visit them, and preach occasionally on week-days in their school-houses. (Cheers.)

I regret, Sir, the course which our Westminster brethren have lately pursued by their papers before Presbytery, and their backwardness to co-operate with us on an equal footing. It has tended to hamper and perplex us, and to postpone the realization of our sanguine and fond hopes. It has been asserted by them. "We are in too great a hurry." I even excuse them for this. But then, sir, we have learned from the sad experience of the past to be more expeditious in the future. We have no security that Dr. Skinner, absent as he now is from his family in Scotland, will always and patiently wait on frivolous and embarrassing delays. Other fields too have been inviting his labours. He has continued faithful to us notwithstanding the untoward movement through which we have passed. And, our minds being made up, why should we put in jeopardy again a cause that is so dear to us, and that has been the victim of so many disasters in the past.—Let the Westminster people continue with us. Let them continue to give their countenance and strength to our cause; and let them derive all the spiritual privileges from us now that they can; let them do so until they are able to secure a minister for themselves. When that day arrives, none will rejoice over it more than we will; and then, Sir, we shall repay them with interest for all the auxiliary supplies which they have afforded to us in our "day of small things." I am sure, Sir, that I give utterance to the unanimous feeling of this meeting when I thus speak.—(Great cheering and plaudits.)

I have but few here, Sir, who can sympathize with me in my early efforts to have the standard

of the Kirk of Scotland planted in this Western country; which, though now beginning to "blossom as the rose," was all but a dark and deep forest when I began to penetrate it *thirty-six years ago!* Then, Sir, having retired with honour from the wars entered into by me on the Continent of Europe for the cause of my Sovereign and country, I embarked for this, one of Great Britain's North American colonies, where a reward to honest industry was promised by the Government, and where I was told, too, that by the gift of my Sovereign a provision was made for a Clergy of the Protestant faith. Often, solitary and alone, did I wend my way to London, then but a *clachan* by the bank of the Thames: for then we knew nothing of the luxury of macadamized roads, and as solitary, after worship, did I find my path back again to the spot I had selected for a home. Then, Sir, I had no friends; but now I am surrounded with my friends and kindred, to whom I acted as the pioneer to bring them to a land of plenty. I am not rich now, Sir, but I have plenty; and I want for no comfort. But there is one thing, I'll tell you, Sir, that I and my family have wanted all along, and which we want now—we have waited for it long—we thought at times that we were within reach of it; but, like a shadow, it passed away from us, as if in mockery of our hopeful aspirations. In short, Sir, we want a minister, we want our sanctuary, too, in connection with our cherished "Church of Scotland." * * * * * By the papers of subscription, now on your Table, we of London have given a proof, that we are able and willing to support a minister. We want one for the Town of London; and one with qualifications adapted to the tastes of a growing and intelligent city population. I have said, Sir, that I am not rich, but have plenty; and I am able also to fulfil my obligations. I am not given to boast of my purse. But, although the Westminster people should now leave us in the Church, and refuse to come up to our aid, I am prepared Sir, to put my name to any bond for the people of London town and township, that they will raise the Minister's stipend themselves, unaided and alone. (Cheers).—Dr. Skinner is not pressing us for an exorbitant salary. He is satisfied if we begin with the promise of £100 per annum, with the Manse and Glebe which we design for him, in addition to the provision made for him at the late meeting of Synod. Are we not able for that, Sir? Why, in the expectation that the Westminster people were to have their papers on the Table, as well as we ours, we exhibit a list of subscribers which produces £75, leaving only £25 in our expectations for Westminster! We can easily add a *per centage* on our subscriptions; and, taking our Sabbath collections into account, we shall not be wanting, rest assured. Rev. Sir, either in willingness or ability to make our minister comfortable.—(Great cheering.)

Dr. Skinner has come to us bearing the very highest credentials. Those credentials and other tests have been submitted first to the Presbytery, and next to the Synod. He has passed through the searching ordeal of both, even while the organs of some have sought unanimously to disparage one whom they formerly delighted to honour. He has come back to us covered with still higher honours than when he left us. As a scholar, as a divine, a pulpit orator and a man of cheerful but genuine piety, he has come to us with unimpeachable testimonials from the East and from the West, from his native Scotland, and from the States of the American Union; and I mean, Sir, no disparagement to others when I say that, since he came among us, he has approved himself worthy of the reputation with which he came. He has done what no man that came before him ever did, or ever attempted to do. Besides preaching more frequently, he has laboured with untiring diligence and zeal, and with astonishing success, in exploring the Town of London, and the whole region around it, searching for the scattered adherents of our Church, associating them together in one fold, and

attracting larger audiences to our worship than ever were before stately convened in London.

Now such a Minister, we hope, as our needs require, has been sent to us. He has drawn our attachments. He has identified himself with us, our families and our Church. If we let the opportunity pass now, who knows when we shall ever again be so favoured as a Church? My counsel, therefore, is that 'we march forward'; and that this Committee and the Presbytery shall be respectfully but earnestly entreated to look favourably on our cause—to sustain the call which we this day subscribe to the Rev. Dr. Skinner, and to hasten his settlement among us.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

This Presbytery met at Hamilton on the 14th of September.

The Rev. D. Macnee having at our meeting on the 16th of July expressed his desire to resign his charge when the term of three years, during which it was his original intention to retain it, should be completed, the Presbytery then ordered that the congregation at Hamilton should be cited edictally to appear at the present meeting, and offer objections, if they have any to his resignation being allowed. It having been now ascertained that the edict was duly served, and no conference having been made by the Congregation through their representatives, they were held as consenting to their Minister's resignation. Accordingly the Presbytery accepted Mr. Macnee's demission, and dissolved his pastoral connection with the Church at Hamilton. On parting with Mr. Macnee, the Presbytery granted him a certificate, testifying that he had been for the three years Minister of St. Andrew's Church, that he had manifested great interest in the business of the Presbytery, and great zeal in forwarding such of its measures as he approved of, and that he leaves the bounds of the Presbytery in good and regular standing, and with the best wishes of his brethren for his ministerial usefulness, and his temporal and spiritual comfort wherever Divine Providence may cast his lot.

There were received applications, supported by a commissioner from each Congregation, for the immediate settlement of Dr. Skinner at London, and Mr. Burnet at Hamilton. The Presbytery after mature deliberation appointed Mr. Mackie to moderate in a call at London on the 27th Sept., and Mr. Mowat at Hamilton on the 10th October, Mr. Macdonell being instructed to proclaim the Church in Hamilton vacant on Sabbath the 25th.—The resolution of the Presbytery to take steps towards the induction of Dr. Skinner was in agreement with the strong recommendation of the Committee who were appointed to enquire into the position of affairs at London, and by whose Convener, Mr. G. Bell, an able Report was laid on the Table.

Dr. Mair, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Mowat reported that they had preached at Guelph as directed; and the Presbytery, having learned that the Minister of that charge