

Caledon contains a population of 1500 souls of whom 750 belong to our church, 250 may belong to other Presbyterian bodies, the remainder divide among the Baptists, Methodists, and the Roman Catholics.

I do not know what the whole population of Erin is, but I have reason to believe the Presbyterians number at least 450 they all belong to our church.

There are in the upper part of Chinguacousy say 350 Presbyterians.

The population of Mono is 800 of whom about 500 are Presbyterians, of these 150 are in connection with our church the rest are Episcopalians and Roman Catholics.

The Presbyterians of Mulmer number about 150, Nottawasaga and Sunnidale contain 311 Scotch Presbyterians.

I am informed that there are 100 or upwards of Presbyterians in St Vincent.

The only part of the district above described that enjoys in any measure religious ordinances or have any access to them, is that which comprises the townships of Caledon, and Mono. A minister in connection with the United Synod has been lately settled in Mono, and besides myself three others labor more or less in Caledon viz. a Baptist who steadily preaches to a few of that communion, and a Methodist and Roman Catholic who occasionally visit the township. All the rest of the section of the country, together with several adjoining townships, is utterly destitute of the means of religious instruction.

In regard to the character of the people as to religious knowledge, ordinances, and duties, various shades of difference may be expected; but such of them as have access to the public ordinances of the gospel are easily distinguished from the generality of the others for freedom from flagrant vices as well as for orderly and blameless conduct. Among these drunkenness, Sabbath-breaking, and similar vices, are more rare, and I have reason to believe that they are more exemplary in their families.

According to the above statement it appears that the aggregate Presbyterian population of the district to which my attention has been directed is, 2861, in the different townships above named, the Presbyterians are generally settled in close neighborhoods; but they are nevertheless, too few that can join in any one place, as well as too poor, to be able for a long time to come without help from some other source to support a gospel ministry; so much so that though many of them have expressed the strongest desire to enjoy gospel ordinances their knowledge of their own weakness in these respects has hindered them from making any effort to get ministers settled among them. In respect to the number of missionaries that would be required to labor within the bounds of this Presbytery, I have no doubt that others of the brethren more able than I am to form a correct judgment in the case, have given you their opinions. I would state as my opinion that three at least would be required to do any justice to our missionary field.

I am

Dear sir,

Yours Truly.

DUNCAN McMILLAN.

The Rev. A. Gale, Hamilton.

We subjoin a copy of the moderator's circular card.

estly requesting immediate attention to it on the part of those concerned.

REVEREND SIR,

The Presbytery of Hamilton having been appointed by the Synod, to prepare and transmit to the Synods of the church of Scot and, a memorial, representing the wants of this colony—especially of the Presbyterian population thereof—in regard to religious instruction and ordinances—have directed me to call your attention to the following queries, and to request that you will furnish them with full and accurate information on the various subjects of inquiry suggested by them.

These queries proceed on the supposition that you will assign to yourself a defined district (a certain number of townships, for instance) within your Presbytery to which your report will refer; and it is expected that the brethren of each Presbytery will by mutual understanding, so arrange the subdivision, as that no part of their bounds shall be omitted.

With regard to those parts of your district which fall least within the sphere of your personal observation. I am instructed to suggest that satisfactory information may be obtained by application to intelligent persons resident therein.

The Presbytery direct me to request that your Report be forwarded to me (post paid) on or before the first day of January next.

1. What is the extent and population of the district which your report embraces?
2. What is the number of religious Teachers actually laboring within it, and to what denominations do they belong?
3. Are the people in general connected with one or other of the religious denominations, receiving the ordinances and supporting the ministry in that connection, and what proportion of them have no such connection?
4. What is the character of the people, as to religious knowledge, or ordinances and duties?
5. What is the number of Presbyterians in the district you describe, and are they settled in close neighborhood, or otherwise?
6. What access have they to religious instruction and ordinances, and what desires have they manifested in this respect?
7. Is there any settlement of Presbyterians in the district you describe, so numerous as to require a settled Pastor, and what provision might be expected from the people for the support of one?
8. How many missionaries would be required to supply, in a satisfactory manner, the wants of the scattered Presbyterian population in your Presbytery—supposing that a district of moderate bounds were assigned to each Missionary?

N. B.—Besides the statements which these queries may call forth, it is requested that you will include in your report, any other information that may assist the Presbytery in giving a distinct account of the religious condition of the country.

ALEXANDER GALE, P. C.

Hamilton, 31st Oct. 1837.