

it was gratifying on the other hand, to meet with many children who manifested a superiority of intellectual quickness, an extent of knowledge truly delightful, and who would have been disappointed had I not examined them. What a difference is often to be found between the children of parents who are diligent and conscientious in discharging their duty; and of those who neglect it, and how innumerable and criminal is such neglect? I shall only add that I had some striking demonstrations that the most pressing worldly avocations need not prevent, as they often do, the regular observance of family worship; for I had occasion to be with those who had scarcely time to take their food, but who never allowed anything to prevent them from collecting the members of their family "to show forth God's loving kindness in the morning, and his faithfulness every night."

Should this communication be suitable to the object of your valuable periodical, you are at liberty to make use of it as you see convenient.

I am,

My dear Sir,  
Most sincerely yours,  
ANDREW FERRIER.

### REV. MR. BETHUNE'S MISSION ON THE GRAND RIVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE RECORD.

DEAR SIR.—According to your request, I hasten to give you some account of my mission to the several stations along the Grand River, by appointment of the Presbytery. I have preached at Caledonia and the back settlements of Oronago and Ancaster. In Caledonia the congregation is small in proportion to the population; and not having a place of worship of their own, they meet in the school-house, which is used for the same purpose by the Episcopal congregation. As the latter had the right of prior occupancy, we could only get the use of the house in the afternoon, so that those from a distance were prevented from attending. This disadvantage has been experienced more or less in the stations generally. At the chapel in the township of Ancaster, however, no such difficulty exists, and there is a numerous attendance. They appear to be a very respectable class of settlers, and to have a due estimation of the value of the ordinances of religion.

Along the plank road which passes through Caledonia, as on every thoroughfare, there are many instances of profanity and contempt of God's holy laws, very grieving to the feelings of those who fear the Lord. On the first Sabbath of our meeting at Caledonia, while the congregation were dismissing, there was a lad selling fruit in a wagon in the middle of the town; and on a subsequent Sabbath, as I came from Ancaster by that way, I overtook a man in a wagon, who was singing a merry song with all the strength of his voice, and made the woods ring again. He did not perceive me till I spoke to him. I said, "Is it the Lord's praise you are singing on the Lord's Day?" After some hesitation, he answered, "Yes, sir." I had not time to spend with him, being in haste to meet the congregation at Caledonia; and having hinted my doubts of his sincerity, I rode on. At that same spot two men crossed the road into the forest, one of whom carried a gun.

In the woods back from Ancaster, towards the river, is a scattered population of new settlers, who are anxious for the services of our church; and I have had many applications from people in like circumstances, in various parts of my circuit, for Sabbath service, but which my appointed duties would not allow me to supply. On the west side of the river, in the township of Tuscarora, is a very interesting settlement of Presbyterians from the North of Ireland, who have squatted on the Indian lands there, to the amount of about sixty families. They made a most pressing request that I would visit them. I did so, and preached in a private dwelling to a goodly number. They are a kind and warm-hearted people. I promised to visit them again when the weather and roads would permit. I preached in a tavern on the plank road, at the request of the mistress of the house, whom I met in the dwelling of a man who was coming, and had sent for me. This man, an Irish Presbyterian, seemed to enjoy much peace and comfort in the prospect of death. He was conversant with the scriptures, and expressed his

confidence in Jesus the Saviour of sinners. A short time before this he had experienced many doubts and anxieties, but the Lord gave him good hope as the hour of his departure drew near.

My next station is in that part of Walpole situated on the Cayuga river, and in the bush in that quarter. The congregation there have a chapel of their own, and the attendance is good. On the same Sabbath I preached at Oneida, opposite Indiana, eleven miles distant. The place of worship is a school, and employed by the Methodists for their meetings. I remark in general that the forenoon services are well attended, and those in the afternoon not so well, as the bush roads cannot be travelled after sunset. Most of the Presbyterians here are newly settled, and have not yet got teams of horses, which makes it difficult for them to come from a distance, especially in winter. This difficulty, of course, will disappear in a year or two.

I was called upon to visit the family of a farmer whose child was sick. His wife was much distressed, and I endeavoured to turn her thoughts to Him who gives and takes away; and exhorted her to commit her child to Him by prayer, and to entrust that she might be enabled to submit to His will, whatever that might be. The infant died, and I was sent for to officiate at the funeral; on which occasion I preached to about twenty persons who had assembled, from the words, "Death hath passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

The farthest extremity of my circuit is Wellandport, where there is a very good meeting; and although the hour is in the evening, yet, from its being an old settled part of the country, the people are able to come from a distance. In Danville I hold a meeting for public worship on the same Sabbath, in the forenoon, in a new house not yet finished, as the church which is erecting is not covered in. It is a very handsome brick building, done in good taste, and speaks favourably of the liberality of the people. I have experienced much kindness from several gentlemen of this place, and indeed throughout my whole circuit.

In the country, as well as in the towns, the vice of profane swearing seems to abound. I stopped to feed my horse at a tavern in a remote situation, and went into the bar-room, where the master of the house and a few others were seated around the fire. He was an aged man, and had been a soldier in his youth. He began to tell me of the war with the United States, in which he had served, but his conversation was so mixed up with oaths, that I rose up without speaking to him, and was going towards the door. He called after me, "Does my conversation not please you?" I answered, "No, it does not; it is not so much the subject, as the manner of it; for you swear so very much." I then resumed my seat, and there was silence for some time. At length he said, "You must excuse an old soldier, sir." I replied, that I did not understand why soldiers were to be excused for breaking God's commandments any more than others; and asked him, whether, if he had disobeyed his officers' orders as often as I had heard him transgress the command of the ruler of all the earth, he would not have suffered for it? He confessed that he had done wrong, and that, although he had frequently resolved to give up the practice, yet the habit was so confirmed in him that he found it impossible. I told him, if he was sincere, it was not impossible; and advised him to try it again, with regular and persevering prayer to God for assistance and strength, and there was no doubt of his success. He promised that he would try in this way; and, should an opportunity offer, I may have the satisfaction of learning from him the result.

*Interim Report by the Colonial Committee, presented to the Commission of the General Assembly, November, 1815.*

### COLONIAL CHURCHES.

The following Report was given in by the Convener, Dr. Buchanan, at the meeting of Commission. It contains a comprehensive view of the wide-spread operations of the Colonial Scheme:

In presenting to the Commission an Interim Report of the Colonial Scheme, your Committee think it unnecessary to enter largely into detail, but

will only give a brief sketch of their proceedings since the meeting of the General Assembly in May.

The largest and most important district of the colonial field is North America, and to that the attention of your Committee has been closely applied. Sympathizing with our fellow countrymen in these colonies who have in such great numbers attached themselves to our cause, and maintained our principles amid many difficulties and serious hardships, it has been the desire of the Committee, in the meantime, to alleviate their spiritual destitution, and to devise measures for ultimately supplying their wants. The Committee have accordingly sent out several of the ministers of the Church to visit their congregations, and express the kindly interest which the Church feels towards them. They have reason to know that these visits have been greatly appreciated; and they trust they have not been left without tokens of the approval of the great Head of the Church. The Committee have likewise sent out a few missionaries, some of whom are already ordained and settled in different stations. Your Committee, while they have thus tried to provide temporarily for the wants of Canada and Nova Scotia, feel that these colonies must ultimately depend on a ministry to be reared from the colonies themselves. Your Committee rejoice that they have good grounds for entertaining the sanguine hope that such a ministry will not be wanting. Three young men were last month licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Toronto; and Mr. Sommerville of Glasgow writes from Montreal that "God is raising up young men in various parts of the province for the work of the ministry." The college, under the able superintendance of Dr. Burns, is this year considerably better attended than last; and the Committee have the satisfaction of being able to report that Dr. Willis of Glasgow has just sailed from Liverpool to join Dr. Burns, and assist him in the midst of his many labours. Under the tuition of two men of such piety and acknowledged learning, the Committee are confident that a staff of native labourers may be reared able to improve the propitious opening which presents itself in Canada at the present moment.

Your Committee continue to receive most pleasing and animating accounts of the prosperous state of the congregation worshipping in Coak Street, Montreal. Since May last that congregation have been favoured with the ministrations of Mr. Douar of Larbert, and Messrs. Arnot and Sommerville of Glasgow; and the Committee have pleasure in stating that they have appointed the Rev. Mr. Stevenson of Tainbody, to succeed Mr. Sommerville there; and it is hoped that, as he is to remain till next summer, the congregation will by that time have called a minister to be ordained over them.

Your Committee are gratified, likewise, to be able to announce that the Rev. Mr. Begg of Edinburgh, has agreed, at their urgent request to visit Canada and Nova Scotia, and spend the winter months there; and in making this announcement, your Committee would recommend him to the prayers of the Church, confident that, under the divine blessing, his visit will be productive of the happiest consequences.

Although your Committee are deeply sensible of their inability to meet the spiritual destitution of our North American colonies, which is ever presenting itself in some new and touching aspect, as it ought to be met, yet they cannot but feel that the visits of so many of her most eminent ministers are calculated to cheer and encourage our brethren across the Atlantic, and will stimulate them in making exertions for the supply of their own wants.

Your Committee have sent out three missionaries to Nova Scotia, and one to New Brunswick, within the last six months; but they regret that the Rev. Mr. Stevens has been obliged to return from New Brunswick on account of his health. The Committee feel that the cordial thanks of the Church are due to Mr. McMillan of Carleton, and Mr. Miller of Dundee, for their devoted and unwearied labours in this part of the province. On the condition of the Church there, however, they will not now enlarge, as Mr. McMillan is present, and will state to the Commission how great the destitution of the means of grace is, particularly among the Highland population. The wants of