

nate emotions of wonder and gratitude, but with no feature in the narration were we more delighted than with that which regarded your honoured Institution and the gratifying success and blessed results with which its opening efforts have been attended.

To you, as the truest hopes of what we may be permitted to call our Mother Church, we look with peculiar interest, as those on whom will devolve the onerous and responsible office of maintaining the great principle of spiritual freedom, when those God-honoured standard bearers who have so manfully and faithfully contended for the perfect rights of their adorable King, shall have been withdrawn from the field of action; and to your strenuous and prayerful exertions with the blessing of the Divine Spirit accompanying them, do we look for the successful maintenance of that exalted standard which your Church has assumed and for the continued dissemination of that sound and wholesome Theology, which has ever been, and which we trust, will ever continue to be, the distinctive glory of our Fatherland.

We congratulate you on the bright galaxy of talent and piety with which the faculty of your New College is graced, and while we console with you on the removal of some who shone with distinguished lustre in the intellectual hemisphere, we cannot but reciprocate the same emotions of gratitude which you must all feel in having those left behind who are so able and willing to supply those responsible seats, over the vacating of which, you have had cause so recently to mourn. While you are thus brought up at the feet of those spiritual instructors, our earnest prayer is, that you may richly enjoy the gracious presence and blessing of Him who alone teacheth us wisely and to profit, and the "knowledge of whom is life everlasting."

Our infant Institution has also commenced its second Session most auspiciously, and the number of students nearly doubling that of last year, and altho' we can never expect that it will attain to that established eminence, which yours has so deservedly reached, still we trust that under the blessing of God it may be the means of rearing up many who shall become honoured and useful labourers in their Master's vineyard and instruments of advancing the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom throughout this extensive land. Already have four of our number been licensed to preach the everlasting Gospel, and during the past summer have been actively engaged in Missionary labour. Several of ourselves have also been employed in Catechetical work, to supply "the lack of service" which is so lamentably prevalent, and we can therefore bear our direct testimony to the general "hungering and thirsting" which is manifested for the word of life. The prospects of our own Church generally in the Irish are at present, we rejoice to say, very encouraging. The period immediately following our dispersion was a somewhat dark and depressing one, but we were supported and cheered in the midst of our afflictions by the presence and aid of the respected representatives of your Church, and the subsequent visits we have received from so many of her zealous and devoted sons, have only made us more anxious to strengthen this too, which they have been the means of more effectually cementing between us. The idea of which their presence and labours have produced is very great, and has tended in many places to excite a strong thirsting for the word of life, which their permanent residence amongst us will alone be able fully to satisfy. (1) that this might meet with a speedy realization; that He, who has all hearts at his disposal would include some of them and soars them among you, to lend a friendly ear to our Macedonian cry; the harvest is plenteous, &c. &c. Whole districts, equal in size to entire counties in our Motherland, are lying in a state of spiritual desolation, and their inhabitants, while enjoying a superabundance of temporal blessings, are growing up in a state of practical heathenism—their souls furnishing for want of that bread which you are privileged so richly to enjoy. The very crumbs which fall from your table would be to them a feast to which they have long been strangers, while the abundant provision to which many of them were accustomed before crossing the mighty waters, only serves to render additionally severe the spiritual famine under which they at present labour. Thoughts of home are not easily eradicated—recollections of by-gone privileges are as difficult to

erase, so that the very Sabbath bell which was wont amid the hills and vales of Caledonia to sound sweetest of any in the ears of the expatriated emigrant, now strikes so mournfully on many's ear, as it reminds him of some beloved now parted away and the sad opportunities which to him are now numbered among the things that were. Nor is this a new romantic picture—it is a real truthful description of the present condition of many portions of our land, and we have ourselves seen the furrowed cheeks of many a sturdy Gael bedewed with bitter tears when contemplating the spiritual desolation around him, and reflecting on children and relations growing up "without God" in the world, and destitute of that "knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation." But in the midst of all this moral wilderness, there are still some green spots where the "tree of life" has taken deep root and "the Rose of Sharon" has been seen to flourish. There are not a few zealous and devoted servants of Christ who have been employed in cultivating the vast field, and we trust their labour has not been in vain; and even in those localities which have not been favoured with the blessings of a stated pastoral superintendence, there have been some traces of spiritual life, some refreshment droppings from on high. May these be but the harbingers of better things in reserve, "even showers of blessing" to revive our drooping heritages! Meanwhile, let us be earnest in prayer at a throne of grace, and that God may make bare his holy arm in our behalf, and that the scattered streaks of light which are beginning to dawn in upon us may be succeeded by a glorious outbreak of the Sun of righteous ness.

Dear Brethren: we ask your prayers in our behalf, when engaged in your Missionary fellow-ship meetings from week to week, forget not your little sister in the far west—be assured that she will not forget you—thus, may our mutual supplications in each others behalf meet around the throne and finding acceptance there come back to us fraught with heaven's richest blessing to our souls. Meantime, we subscribe ourselves as yours in the bonds of our common Lord.

ROBT. F. BURNS, *Cor. Sec.*

FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW COLLEGE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION EDINBURGH, TO THE STUDENTS OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, TORONTO.

New College, George St., Edinburgh, 2  
2nd February, 1846.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN.—We have received and read your letter with heart-felt satisfaction. The information it conveys, and the spirit of christian affection which breathes throughout it, we fully appreciate, and our desire is to send you assurance how deeply we are sensible of your attachment to us, to our churches, and to her principles, while we respond to your good wishes, and desires for spiritual union among us.

Had our intentions been fulfilled, we may tell you in a spirit of friendly rivalry, your letter would not have been the first to pass between our associations. Towards the close of last session, one of our committee was appointed to open a correspondence with you. Unfortunately for this design, his studies were just then brought to a speedy termination. Shortly after we separated last year, he was licensed, and almost immediately after, accepted a call to the pastoral office.

Resuming our studies at College this year, we regretted to find that our intentions had been frustrated, and deputed another of our number to prepare a letter for you. Sincerely had it been completed, when your welcome epistle arrived, and the pleasing duty devolved upon us, not of taking the initiative, but of continuing the correspondence so auspiciously begun by you.

Be assured that we are gladdened by the intelligence that your Institution is prospering. We rejoice in your increased numbers; we rejoice in your formation of a Missionary society, but more than all, we rejoice and give thanks to God, that in your distant western land there are those rising up who have been prepared and called by Christ himself, to engage in his work. Let us ever bear in mind, that whatever may be our Theological acquirements, without the Master calling we have no true warrant to proclaim his message; and that the divinely given test of discipleship

excludes all who have not the spirit of Christ.

With information respecting our College and honoured professors, we need not trouble you, as you seem thoroughly to know both the Institution and the men who preside over it. Nor do we need to tell you of our cherished association, of its trials, its vicissitudes, and the somewhat painful experience through which it has so lately passed. All these you know, and we shall therefore be spared the pain of recalling unpleasant reminiscences, though now we have to rejoice in well-attended meetings, and considerable interest in our weekly proceedings. Let us make you acquainted generally with what has been, and is going on, among us.

At the close of last session arrangements were made for a general and continuous concert in prayer on the part of our members. Our engagement was that during the summer a portion of each Saturday morning should be devoted to special supplication for Ministers and students, that the spirit of all grace would quicken them, enlarge their hearts, prepare expectants for being spiritual workmen, and strengthen those already in the field for their responsible duties. Though intended at first for the students alone, we know that others embraced the opportunity thus afforded, for united prayer, and we trust that its fruits have been, and will yet be, great.

Besides the students preparing for our own church, we have this session the pleasure of meeting many Irish students at the Hall. They form indeed no small proportion of our number; and we have been gratified by learning that they meet weekly for the purpose of mutual prayer. Some of the literary students also, assemble in the same way, and the spirit prevailing among them, we believe to be very encouraging, and full of promise.

But you will naturally ask what labours we are engaged in? These are various. During last summer several of the more advanced students were engaged as catechists, chiefly in the more neglected rural districts which call for attention.—At the present hour, the late President and Treasurer of our association, two much respected colleagues, are labouring among the dense population of Manchester.

In the City here, a few thickly-peopled districts have been assigned to the charge of some experienced students, who are thus enabled to direct and superintend the efforts of junior associates.—These render their services as visitors and sabbath school teachers, striving we trust, to walk in the steps of their divine Master, alike in the spirit and manner of their intercourse with our much neglected poor fellow citizens.

Efforts of this kind, especially those lately originated, are made after the example, and in the method of our beloved Principal, Dr. Chalmers, whose active and benevolent mind has done much both in instituting, and furthering them. He himself, as you probably know, has taken an especial interest in one of the spheres where such exertions are going on, intending it, we believe, to be a kind of model for similar endeavours.

Of private and individual labours in tract distribution, district visiting, and sabbath school teaching, we cannot speak definitely. We know however, that many are engaged in these self-denying walks of usefulness, doing good, we would earnestly hope, not less to their own souls, than to those among whom they go.

Thus much for home; but foreign Missions, we are glad to say, have not this year been without an accession from our number. During the present session, an honoured brother Mr. Thompson, has been ordained a Missionary to the Jews, and is now labouring at Constantinople, we believe.

Mr. Eyderham too, himself a descendant of Abraham, has within the last month, been ordained for the same purpose. At present he is acting as preacher to one of our country congregations, but is ere long to leave it, and go to his Hebrew brethren.

While speaking of other lands, we may advert to the addresses with which we have this session been favoured by strangers. Two members of an Irish deputation lately in town, embraced the opportunity our Saturday morning meeting afforded, of interesting us in their Mission, and met with eminent success. Within the last few weeks, our attention has been turned to the religious state of Greece, by a gentleman studying among us, who