

College vacation, prevented us from remaining steadily in the field. But into our feeble labours others entered whom we heartily wish God speed. The fact just stated obliged many of our number to take up new spheres of labour, each succeeding year. At the opening of the last session of College, an exploring expedition was sent forth to spy the land. We still found many destitute zones, and to these directed our attention. Localities in the city which had hitherto been entirely overlooked, were regularly visited and supplied with tracts; so that we believe there has not a necessitous quarter of the City of Toronto, whose spiritual wants were not in some measure attended to during the last session. Every fortnight 497 tracts were distributed, and a corresponding number of families visited. Ten weekly prayer-meetings were regularly sustained, at which the Word was expounded and other religious exercises engaged in. The aggregate average attendance at the meetings was 147 persons. Many thus received spiritual instruction, who, from one cause or another, could not be brought out to Sabbath or more public meetings. At some of our public meetings, we had a large attendance of children and young persons, whom some of our number felt particularly desirous of bringing within the range of Bible instruction, from the conviction of the importance of paying special attention to the young as the rising hopes of society and the Church.

Your Committee here feel themselves called upon to return their sincere thanks to our esteemed Professors for their hearty co-operation, and also to the much-respected pastor of Knox's Church, Toronto, for his valuable assistance in this department of their work. His thorough acquaintance with the city, and his valuable hints on the conduct of various parts of our City Missionary work, were of great benefit to, and highly appreciated by us.

As formerly, several of our number were employed in missionary labour in the vicinity of Toronto. Nine or ten stations were regularly supplied during the session of College. The supply of these, some being at a considerable distance from the town, occupied no small portion of our time, and was not altogether unattended with inconvenience. But we have been amply repaid in the pleasing fact, of our having been, to some extent, instrumental in breaking the bread of life to our destitute fellow-men.

With regard to financial matters, your Committee beg leave to say, that these will be embodied in the Treasurer's report. As yet, we have been able to meet our liabilities, and we trust that our funds will be steadily increasing. We feel constrained, with those who preceded us in office last year, to revert to the difficulty arising from the confounding of the Synod's collection in behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society, with the collection or subscription we have hitherto made for our own. We trust the same difficulty will not again occur.

Your Committee now beg leave to resign the charge hitherto committed to them. In doing so they offer their sincere thanks for the assistance and indulgence which at all times they have received from you, and with the earnest prayer that their successors may be largely endued with the spirit of wisdom and discretion, for the discharge of their responsibilities—and that your missionary zeal may be greatly increased, and crowned with the blessing of Him, whose encouraging promise is, "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

NIAGARA DISTRICT.

The Harvest truly is plentiful, but the Labourers are few.

If there is one part of Canada to which this language may be applied with greater force than another, it is the Niagara District—Niagara, often designated as the garden of Canada, lovely for

situation and abundant in productions. After leaving the good and generous people of Galt, whose kindness will not easily be forgotten, my course was directed to Dunnville. This is a rapidly rising village, situated on the Grand River, in an advantageous position in a commercial point of view. It is distant about twenty-five miles from Caledonia.

The population, which is partly American, Dutch, Irish, Scotch, English, and Canadian, is about one thousand, and the country around is very well settled. There is in the village an Episcopal Church, in which the Rev. Mr. Townley officiates every Sabbath, and there is also a respectable and comfortable Church, lately built, in connection with the Free Church. On my arrival I found that the people had enjoyed with great satisfaction, the valuable services of Mr. J. Black, for the greater part of the summer. His untiring and zealous efforts here, will be long remembered.

During the last month I have preached in the village nine times, to good and very attentive congregations. It is hoped the seed sown will produce an abundant harvest. I have also visited about twenty-five families, and two of the schools taught in the place. In every case I have been well received, indeed the people express a great desire for ministerial visiting. There is a flourishing Sabbath School, attended with from fifty to eighty children, and the teachers manifest a growing interest in the work. There is great need that we have a settled minister in this village—a wide and desolate field opens up for usefulness, and the people can no longer be satisfied with missionary supplies. May the Lord, the Shepherd, send them in every way adapted to their necessities—who will be successful in pointing sinners to the only refuge.

Associated with Dunnville, is Wellandport, distant twelve miles. In this, which is a very old settlement, there is a church which was built by the American Presbyterians, in connection with the Niagara Presbytery. There is here, when there is regular service, a very good congregation, but there is great need of a revival; may the Lord lift upon the people the light of his countenance, and revive his work in their hearts. I have preached here only four times, but hope it was not wholly in vain.

Between this and Hamilton, there are at least three vacant churches,—one in Ganaborough, one in Clinton, and one in Grimsby. On the other side, eastward, there are four or five. These are situated in the oldest settled, the wealthiest, and most fruitful part of Canada. They were built by the American Presbyterians; and previous to the late Canadian rebellion, the congregations are said to have been good and prosperous.

At the breaking out of the rebellion, many of the ministers returned to the States, the churches were left destitute, and the congregations were scattered. One thing led to another, until, we believe, the Niagara Presbytery is extinct. The reader, no doubt, is ready to say this is a sad state of things. It is sad indeed, but still it is cheering to learn, that in many cases the people are beginning to realize their destitute position.—They are beginning to see that they must look to Canada for a supply of efficient ministers, who will restore to them the privileges of the House of God; and in this their eye turns towards the Free Church. We hope then, that the Hamilton Presbytery will be able to give more attention to the necessities of the Niagara District. It would be well, if one or more could be sent on a short exploring tour to visit these churches, and give what information is required. Such, by the people, would be received as a great kindness, and we have no doubt, but it would pave the way for the union of those destitute, though scattered congregations, with the Free Church. Taking a deep interest in this matter, we hope to be able to visit one or two places. O that our people were really alive to the work before them! Our day of privileges will soon end in the dark night

of death; our summer will soon be past, and the harvest end. A great work remains to be accomplished, and there is only a short time to do it, therefore, it behoves us to do immediately what we mean to do for the cause of Christ and a dying world. Send forth, O Lord, thy light and thy truth, daunt not for thine own name and righteousness sake.

W. PORTERFIELD.

DUNSMITH, Oct. 22, 1850.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION, OAKVILLE, C.W.

We give insertion to the following, in order that the praise-worthy example of the Ladies of Oakville, may stimulate others to do likewise.—Such associations have been honoured to do much good where they exist, and we believe the day is not far distant when they will be found in every thriving congregation. We know of a case in which the Ladies of one Association by a timely donation of £100 from their funds, relieved a Presbytery from much embarrassment. In this way, in a pecuniary point of view, they are worthy of encouragement, but they accomplish higher ends, producing a salutary influence upon those engaged in them, exciting and cherishing a missionary spirit and awakening a general interest in the cause of religion. We rejoice to know that the young minister of the congregation of Oakville is well sustained in his pastoral labours, and that his attached people are strengthening his hands by cheerfully co-operating with him in every benevolent and Christian effort:—

Constitution of the Ladies' Missionary Society, in connection with the Presbyterian Congregation of Oakville.

PREAMBLE.

That the cause of our Saviour is to be advanced by human agency, is universally acknowledged. Our Lord did not say to the angels, "Ye are my witnesses," but thus he said to his followers before he took leave of our world to resume his seat at the right hand of the Eternal Father. But as believers in all ages enjoy the same blessing, so, they are bound to the performance of the same duties. If our Saviour in his intercessory prayer, says, "neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John xvii. 20.) So he includes all who shall believe when he says to his disciples, "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark xvi. 15.)

Deeply convinced that it is the duty of every believer to seek by every possible means the salvation of immortal souls, the Ladies of the Presbyterian Congregation of Oakville, have formed themselves into a Society for missionary purposes. By so doing they are not afraid of it being said that they are stepping out of their proper province. They know that God has owned and greatly blessed such associations. They desire not to take the place of the apostles or preachers of the Word, but they desire to labor with "the apostles in the gospel," as the women of old laboured with the Apostle Paul. (Phil. iv. 3.) They invite the friends of the Redeemer (whether connected with the congregation or not) to assist them in this good work, without being discouraged by the smallness of the amount which may be realised by the Society, remembering that the Lord hath said, that "if there be fit in a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (2 Cor. viii. 12.)

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be denominated the Ladies' Missionary Society, of the Presbyterian Congregation of Oakville.