

recollection the sight of the still flowing, dark colored, island-studded Mississippi ; the smooth wavy farms of the rich prairies of the West, but still more vivid, and we trust more lasting will be our recollections of the Christian kindness of the many friends we had the pleasure of meeting in our brief sojourn in their midst ; and I can best give utterance to the grateful emotions that are now excited at the remembrance of their kindness, in the expressive prayer, May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

With many thanks, Mr. Editor, for the favor of your pages,

I remain, yours,

JOHN LOGIE.

THE FOREIGN MISSION QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Canadian U. P. Magazine.

SIR:—

I read Mr. Duff's letter in reference to his tour through the Durham Presbytery, with much interest, and its publication is fitted to do good service to the cause entrusted to the Committee of which he speaks, and for the promotion of which, they, at their meeting in October last, resolved to send deputations to all the Presbyteries in the denomination. Mr. Duff seems to have been the first on the field, and his reception, will, it is to be hoped, be an encouragement to the other deputies to start on their respective missions, as it is an example which all the Presbyteries and Congregations in the Synod would do well to imitate. I have had reason to know that some of the deputies have been disposed to defer, if not to abandon the visit on account of "*the hard times*," and, that, for the same reason, some Congregations, if not Presbyteries, have declined, or will decline, the visit of the deputies, even if it should be offered. This I have learned with deep regret, and I believe that many of the best friends of our Church will sympathize with the sentiment. Nor can I think that such a step is called for, or even justified by the reason assigned ; that reason, on the other hand appears to me to be one of the strongest that can be urged for the deputies fulfilling their appointment, as Mr. Duff has done, and for all the Presbyteries and Congregations in the body, giving them the same cordial and encouraging reception that those of Durham gave him.

What is the cause of "*the hardness of the times*?" is a question that is often asked, but never very satisfactorily answered. Very different causes have been assigned, and there is probably no *one* cause that can account for it. Though, however, we cannot tell what its cause *is*, we can tell what its cause is *not*. It is not that the people of Canada, or we may say, of any other country, have been giving too much, either for the support of the Gospel at home, or for the spread of it abroad. In such a case, there might be ground for the argument that they should not, in *present circumstances*, be called upon to give more for either of these objects. But what if the fact of their giving so *little* to these objects, should be the cause, to any extent of their having now so little for their own purposes? What if commercial distress should be in any degree the result of spiritual niggard-