

hearing of the ear heard it, and with their eyes beheld it, should have felt their hearts kindled within them; and, in the apparent hopelessness of any other resource, should have come earnestly entreating the help of their brethren at home. We know that it was precisely this feeling, working in the heart of one who dwelt in that island, and through his earnest and honest entreaties reaching the hearts of many who had before not known what it was to bestow even a thought upon its inhabitants, which, under God, led, in the year 1823, to the formation of the very Society for which I plead. We know, further, that, urgent as were the calls which were made from Newfoundland itself, within five or six years after the creation of this Society, they who were entrusted with the management of its proceedings dared—it was a bold adventure, but they did dare—even to look beyond that field to the borders of another larger still; and they then professed to assume as another field of labour, their province of British North America. Ten years elapsed indeed ere they could make that profession good; but when the opportunity at length was offered, and the door was opened, in 1839, by the Bishop of Montreal who welcomed the agents of this Society into his diocese, they availed themselves of it; and have ever since been going on, cheered by the hearty encouragement of him who is the spiritual pastor of the flock among them, and cheered by the prayers and sympathy of others, who have rejoiced to strengthen their hands in this work.

And here, brethren, I am reminded that in the same year of which I speak, the episcopate was also established in Newfoundland. The Church was then in her integrity exhibited in the sight of her people; and ever since there has been exhibited among them that perfect reciprocity of Christian love, which the pastor will ever pray may exist between his flock and himself. We have not now the time to speak of, and if we had, we feel that we could not adequately acknowledge, that great debt of obligation which we owe to him, who, having during that period, filled the office of Bishop of Newfoundland, has now been called to labour in another por-

tion of the British Colonial empire. But we do thankfully confess, that this Society has experienced his most constant and fatherly protection; and we pray that the same help may be continued to be extended by those who follow him. We pray that the same scattering of the spiritual seed by their hands may be prospered, and that He who is the Lord of the seed-time and of the harvest, will not suffer their labour to be “in vain in the Lord.” It is upon no vague, no general grounds of hope, that we indulge this expectation. We feel that at the period at which we are speaking, we have this sure testimony upon our side, namely, that at the present time, including those seventy schools which are established in the diocese of Montreal, there are one hundred and twenty schools in operation, owing their existence and their maintenance, under God, to the exertions of this Society. We know, further, that eighteen of the agents of this Society have been received into the holy orders of deacons and of priests by the Bishops of Montreal and Newfoundland, and that nine of these teachers are at this moment engaged in their work in Newfoundland. All these are palpable and distinct testimonies. They are tokens set up in the midst of us, to show that God still deals mercifully with us, notwithstanding that we have been so slow to promote His glory. He has not cast us off. He still suffers us to draw near unto Him with the voice of supplication and of praise; and, in the desire which He awakens within us, to make others partakers of that hope which has been extended to us, He would make each of us, more faithfully and more ardently realize the fulness of that hope himself. I leave it then for you, by your own earnest efforts, by your own hearty prayers, to strengthen the hands of those who, as labourers in the field of missionary toil, do indeed need your help. In any and every place that toil is arduous; but how much more arduous is it in the island, of which I have been speaking! We have abundant evidence of the difficulties, which have beset those who have travelled the length and breadth of that dreary land; when they have been cut off for weeks and months,