

rupt on has been a good thing for them, and appreciate highly the occasional services which have been rendered to them by Ministers and Preachers of Free Church principles. The French Canadian population, is losing its *forum stantii*, every day sinking in circumscriptions and selling its property, and it is mournful to think that there is nothing in the wretchedness of Popery to elevate its character, or avert its ruin. The Scotch are likely to increase in numbers and wealth, and from the vicinity to Montreal, and the superiority of the land, it is not improbable that men of enterprise and capital may come in as settlers and proprietors. From St. Eustache, I removed to Lachute, where for a few weeks I supplied the place of the Rev. Thos. Henry, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, at that time absent on a Missionary tour, into some of the destitute portions of the Presbytery. During my stay at Lachute I visited Chatham and St. Andrew's, and held meetings of a similar nature with those already noticed in other places, and gave explanations of the disruption in Scotland, and of the connection which subsisted between it and the formation of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Thereafter I returned to St. Eustache and Grande Pénitence, where I remained for about a week, preaching at both stations, and departing from St. Eustache for Montreal on Wednesday, the 16th April. On Friday, the 13th, I left Montreal to pay another visit to the Chateauguay District, and remained for several weeks at Huntingdon, and the neighbourhood until the meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, on Wednesday, 14th May.—I might say a great deal regarding my own impression of the effect of my labours in this part of the country. It will be more becoming to be silent, for there are features too absorbing to the interesting people themselves and far too flattering to the missionary memorialist, which might be drawn, which are beyond the painter's power,—like the picture, which the artist veiled, not because the subject but the skill was unworthy,—and which therefore, it will every way be more graceful to leave it to be imagined, rather than to attempt to describe.

By the time these missionary proceedings were completed, the season of spring was come and all nature was arrayed in the lovely garments of a temporal resurrection. The ice bound rivers were free from the fetters which had made their waters motionless. The snows of the long winter had disappeared. The trees were putting on their young and tender foliage, the flowers began to appear on the earth, and the music of birds brought gladness to the heart and melody to the ear.

I could say much of the hospitality which I have received in the course of my missionary sojournings. May the blessing of him who commends those who give even a cup of cold water in his name to a disciple; and the reward which waits on those who entertain angels unwares, follow the generous kindness of all who have room enough in their hearts to find beneath their roof a prophet's chamber for the humble missionary. In this world they shall have their reward, and in the world to come, if it does not gain it shall not cause them to lose the certainty of life everlasting.

In any portion of the wide vineyard of the world, and more particularly in such a portion of it as Canada, where the field is so extended, and the laborers so few, and where, therefore, there must be a greater amount of journeying by the way than the settled and studious—yet most profitable and edifying—regularities of a stated home, the way-faring work of a missionary preacher, frequently, incessantly, and irresistibly directs the thoughts to Him who was the greatest missionary the world ever saw. How glorious was His work, and how unsearchable the depths of His humiliation. His most honoured servants, who have laboured most largely and gone most fully ripe to their heavenly rest, never left the felicitous of such a home, nor bore with a spirit so divine and uncomplaining—not the reproach of slanders—but their little

share of the heat and burden of the day. It is a perpetual rebuke to the Church which he hath blessed with his blood, that he hath done so much for it, while it hath done so little for him; a rebuke most touching and most beautiful, for the holy one and the just could derive from his high and glorified positions to pluck the guilty as brands from the burning, and to speak in words of wondrous loveliness of the flowers of the field which he clothed, and the birds of the air which he fed; while those who are called by his name are careless for the highest welfare of their brethren and kinsmen of the same flesh and of the same high and holy faith. He would abide in no home in this world, that sinners might be sure of a home in Heaven; and the Son of Man had not where to lay His head, although the foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests. When the faith is feeble and the spirit is weary, and the heart is like to faint and fail, and the weakness and the sins of flesh and blood oppress the frail and dying tabernacle of clay, it is well to think on Him who is now exalted a Prince and a Saviour,—who forgets not that when he was a man of sorrows his anguish was soothed by the ministry of angels,—it is well to remember that He who is higher than angels is with his servants always even to the end of the world,—that he is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and is stirred by sympathies more bountiful than angels ever knew, and wields a power more overruling and more beneficent than angels ever exercised,—and it is well to look up to him and ask the strength and grace he has promised to give in the time of need. Canada wants apostles, and it has not found them yet. It has had its men of devoted self-denying spirit, but these have been few and far between. The searching out and gathering up of the fragments which may be found as the memorials of their almost unknown and unrecorded labors, would form a lovely chapter in the early history of the Canadian Churches. The machinery of modern Missions has never been lightly applied to Canada. Missions to the Heathens require to be supported, *ab extra*; and so far as human agency is concerned, if they had been left to stand self-sustained, *ab intra*, the Heathen might never have heard of a Saviour's name or a Saviour's work, and some of the brightest tales of Missionary fame that have ever delighted the Church and gladdened the hearts of angels might never have been told. The *ab extra* application has exercised but a scanty and penurious influence in Canada. The poor emigrants, who have heroically dug out a home in the forest have also been left to too great an extent to build amid the spiritual wastes the Tabernacle of the Lord, and in many cases that work has never been attempted, or after frequent failures has been abandoned in despair. Still the foundation in some measure has been laid;—that foundation may be extended and strengthened, and over it may yet arise a magnificent and living structure. So far as the outworks of the tabernacle are concerned, a sound and judicious scheme of finance is of prime importance. Such a scheme has already been laid before the Church in the plan of the Sustentation Fund, and it must be matter of unspeakable regret to all who wish well to the prosperity of the Young Church which promises to unite all the true and vigorous Presbyterianism in this country, to see that in any quarters, whether honorable or base, such a scheme should be misunderstood or calumniated. Time, however, which often discovers and beautifies the truth, and exposes and visits falsehood with disgrace, will yet satisfy the beneficent and right hearted friends, and silence the mean and malignant enemies, of this most wise and salutary measure. It possesses all the excellencies, and it is free from some of the defects of the great scheme which has done so much for the Free Church of Scotland. It might be too tedious to enter into a proof, but it would not be difficult to show that it is more perfect than the financial scheme of the Free Church; and that if it were adopted in Scotland it would be an improvement

on the Scottish plan. Those who have studied both plans, and have seen the operation of both, and can look at them without any personal bias must come to this conclusion. To pass, however, from this part of the subject to another,—it may be asked what is the best and most efficient mode of supplying the immediate spiritual wants of the Scotch Emigrants to Canada? The claims of this country, have been often urged and urged in a variety of forms, and surely they are not less loud and imperative than the demands which have been made from other quarters, and met from the Fatherland with noble and most generous promptitude. We have heard of the religious wars of India, and they are overwhelming enough, but Canada has stronger claims on Scotland, by birth, and kindred, and language, and every tie which binds one country to another in the brotherhood of human nature and of Christianity; and if the claims of Canada had been as unanimously met, a field of as fair promise might have been ripening to the harvest. The plan for evangelising India is just the plan for evangelising Canada. A ministry must be reared from the native youth of the country, and the thrust not only for men, but for great men from Scotland, must be satisfied—not certainly with what is desirable but what is practicable and attainable. Men and money, too, may be sought from Scotland, but the meagre supply should not be too much depended upon, and if Scotland does not give Canada all the help which may be required, Canada must just do the best it can to help itself. God provides his own champions where men never seek them. Saul did not go to the sheep folds of Jesse to find the conqueror of Goliath, and yet from that humble source came forth the bravest of Israel's warriors, and the noblest of Israel's Kings, and the holiest of Israel's Songs. It is true that the most efficient human instrumentality which the wisdom of man can discover, and the activity of man can secure, should be called into operation. Men, however, should not trust too much to what they cannot get, but should lay strenuous hold on what is within their reach. Now the youth of Canada are at hand, to be prepared for the work of the Ministry. By their habits and by their knowledge of the country, in all physical respects they are better adapted for the peculiar wants of the colony than men from Scotland. True, this is but an inadequate qualification without the higher endowment of intellectual gifts, and without the highest endowment of all, the quickening and sanctifying influence of the Spirit of God. Still it possesses its own value and it has been too much overlooked. Old world students will not fight their way through the bush, nor be reconciled to the economy of concessions and townships half so well, or half so heartily, as men to whom these things are familiar as household words, and to whom they are associated with the charms of home. The loss of home and country is too incredible to be blotted out of the human heart, and wherever the youth, which is the picturesque period of pilgrimage of life, is spent, thither will the thoughts, with burning and unextinguishable affections again and again return.

The *perfidum ingenium* which witnessed beauty in every landscape, and gathered learning from the books and academic halls, and grew into piety and wisdom amid the Sabbaths of Scotland, is apt to lose much of its vigor and fire when transplanted into a stranger soil. Put, therefore, Canada for Scotland, and let the *perfidum ingenium* of Canadian youth expand into gracefulness and maturity in the land which was once the uninvaded home of the Indian, and which is still so beautiful with noble rivers, and broad lakes, and boundless forests, and unclouded skies; and let all the knowledge which books and living instructors can give—and all the beauty of homes which the word of life, and the example of Christian men, and the prayers of the Church and people of God can bring—be added with a vigor which will admit of no rest, and an importunity which will take no denial; let all this be done, and in the valley of