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"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

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Home Missions.

The letter of Dr. McGivray, of date the 16th November, as we mentioned in our last, arrived too late for that publication. We have been favoured with a second communication from the same esteemed correspondent, and though he has given us somewhat discretionary power with the former, we insert it, with the exception of a few paragraphs. The other communication, we regret to say, by unavoidable accident, was mislaid until too late for the present number. It shall appear in our next.

VANKEEK HILL, by LOEHEL,
16th Nov., 1847.

REV. DEAR SIR,—

And here I may be permitted to state a few things in regard to the manner in which the revival commenced, and the means by which it was, under God, produced. Putting all personal claims and pretensions aside, as being quite out of place in connection with a solemn work of this kind, I have the best reasons for believing that the spiritual movement which is now so manifest in Glengary, has been going on for a considerable length of time. Aware of this, I took occasion at the meeting of Synod, as well as in my communications to the Colonial Committee at home, to refer to it; but being anxious not to disturb the progress of the work by creating any excitement, or giving any premature details, I simply alluded in general terms to the hopeful symptoms which I observed, and to the prospective expectations which I entertained. The awakening is by no means a recent or a sudden thing. The visits of the Free Church Deputies who first came to this quarter—especially to Loehel, a place to which they all paid particular attention—were, I have reason to think, the primary means which the Lord was pleased to employ for bringing about the present state of things. Those who attended the meetings held by them in the latter of these places, still speak of the deep impression which their addresses produced. The people were made sensible, at that time, that they wanted something in the way of spiritual teaching, which they were never aware of before. It was, I understand, a common saying among them that they never heard the truth preached with the same power, or presented in the same light, in which it was preached and presented by these Ministers. So strong was this feeling that, I am told, their discourses struck them as something quite new and strange, inasmuch that they looked upon them as the heralds of a better and a brighter version of the gospel. This was in itself an important step towards a revival of religion. The people had been made to "taste of the word of life," and were led to mark the difference between "the truth as it is in Jesus," and the truth as it is in *Man*. Before I was many weeks in the District, I had occasion to observe that their minds, already emancipated from a host of hereditary prejudices, were gradually opening to the light. The eagerness with which they crowded to the ordinances; the devout solemnity which marked their behaviour in the house of God; the wakeful, thoughtful, even anxious interest they manifested, while listening to the word; the decided relish for the more spiritual lessons of divine truth, which they evinced; together with the humble docility and trembling tenderness of conscience, with which they bowed down

under the searching appeals that were designed to convince them of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; all these circumstances served to impress me with the conviction that the gospel was coming to them, "not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost." This conviction was further strengthened by what I saw and heard of their altered habits, both in public and in private; and by the cases of persons under spiritual concern that came, from time to time, under my notice. But while I could see a silent work of this kind going on, it was not till August last that it assumed a more pointed and palpable form. I had just returned from a tour to the western parts of the province, which I undertook at the suggestion of Convener of the Colonial Committee. After completing this tour, I took a hurried run to the *States*, both for the purpose of visiting the Highland settlement of Caledonia, in the Genesee County, and of collecting whatever sums I might get to aid our people here in erecting the churches required in the district. When we arrived at Boston, the dear companion of my labours and travels was taken ill, and rendered unable to proceed further. Seeing that duty demanded my presence in Glengary, I was obliged, at a painful sacrifice of personal feelings, to leave my wife in a land of strangers, and that, too, under circumstances that made the separation peculiarly trying to us both. Committing her, however, to the care of Him who was calling me away, I returned hither towards the end of July, and soon discovered that the voice which summoned me back was indeed the voice of God, who was pleased to bless my labours in a very marked and manifest degree, both in this place and in Loehel, but especially in Loehel. The first Sabbath I preached there, several, as I have since learned, were brought under spiritual impressions, and all were or less aroused; and on the last Sabbath that I was permitted to be with them on that occasion, the effect of the audience, and the power that seemed to accompany the word was so very remarkable, that I could not help saying to myself, "Truly the Lord is here; how awful is this place!" The few people present that day from every corner of Glengary, from Dalhousie Mills, from Kenyon, from Indian Lands, and from places still more remote. I heard of some who travelled upwards of fifty, and of others who journeyed nearly sixty miles, going and returning from church. And when, as the services of the day proceeded, I witnessed the deeply impressive appearance of that vast assemblage—the breathless stillness that prevailed—the look of united and rivetted attention—the pale cheeks—the quivering lips—the sighs and silent tears, indicating the struggle and the strength of suppressed emotion; when I witnessed all this, and more than this what I cannot find words to describe; I could not doubt that an awakening energy was present, and a work of grace verily going on. When the service came to a close, however, the congregation dispersed as usual. There was a significant murmur running among them as they retired, but they separated to their respective homes without noise or outbreak of any kind, at least so far as I could at the moment see or learn. Having received a unanimous return to Boston, I left this on the Tuesday following. I could not help thinking that I was placed in very peculiar circumstances; pulled as I was, by different duties in different directions; and kept in doubt with regard to the result in both cases. I had, however, no difficulty in seeing that the Lord willed me to "walk by faith, and not by sight,"

and to trust Him both in his providence and his grace. I did, indeed, hear in the course of Monday that there was "a stirring" among the people of Loehel, and that every one was "wondering what these things would come to." But during the whole time I was away, I could obtain no certain tidings regarding the state of the district. The only intelligence I received was contained in a letter from Mr. Fraser, in which he informed me that he had gone to supply a day for me in Loehel, and that he was struck with the appearance of a revival which showed the misdeeds among the people. But as he mentioned nothing decisive, I took it for granted that matters were still hanging in a state of suspense; or rather, that the work was advancing gradually and quietly, as it was doing before. On our arrival, however, at our quarters here from Boston, on Saturday week, I was told that the movement at Loehel had not passed off so silently as I had been led to suppose; that it had, on the contrary, been followed by distinct and important results, and that the awakening impulse, ingrafted there had spread through the Indian Lands, and down in the direction of Martletown, and more or less through the whole of Glengary. That Martletown and the district around it are still reaping the benefit of Mr. Connell's labours, I have no manner of doubt. I know that devoted servant of God well. He was my early friend and intimate fellow-countryman; and from what I have heard of his ministry, through some of the golly elders and other friends that sat under him, I am thoroughly persuaded that, "though dead, he yet speaks," and will continue to speak precious lessons which he has left behind him, for generations to come. O! that Canada had been blessed with many such ministers as he was. If it had, it would not be the dark and desolate land we find it at this day. But I trust that, through the mercy of the Lord, a time of refreshing from his presence is at hand. There are many cheering tokens of this already to be seen. The awakening here is only a precursor to greater things. To the listening ear of faith there is a stirring in the valley of dry bones. Dear brethren of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, let us all up and be doing! The master calls us. The voice of the Lord is breaking stillly through the dim forests of the land. The spirit of the Lord is beginning to move upon the hearts of the people, and thousands are already on their benumbed knees, weeping over their neglected bibles. Up, then, brethren! let us lay aside all self-seeking, take up our crosses and preach Christ, and we may yet live to see the forest converted into a fruitful field, and the wilderness into a well watered garden.

I am, Reverend and Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Wm. McGIVRAY.

The following communication, from a devoted labourer in the missionary field, is presented to our readers in an abridged form. We have omitted the introductory remarks of our correspondent, and presented that portion of his letter which possesses more general interest. We are thereby admonished of the greatness of our work, the inadequacy of our means, and the imperative need of more earnest believing prayer, more strenuous efforts on our part, and firmer reliance on divine aid.