

feared in almost every district of the country—the all-important ends which it aims to serve and secure are now so thoroughly understood—and the consequent necessity of maintaining and extending its operations is so universally admitted, that little need be said in the advocacy of its claims on the sympathy and support of the Christian public. These claims cannot fail to force themselves with peculiar urgency on every reflecting mind at the present moment. Notwithstanding all that has been done by all religious denominations, and much has been done, more especially of late, to overtake the fearful amount of religious destitution which had been gradually and silently accumulating in former years, while the population was allowed rapidly to increase, without any corresponding provision for their spiritual instruction,—it cannot be denied, that the evil has been but very partially remedied, and that it still exists to a most deplorable and alarming extent; and no right-thinking and well-informed man will hesitate to refer to this, as its main source, that reckless spirit of discontent and insubordination which has lately been manifested on the part of large masses of our fellow-countrymen, threatening to subvert our time-hallowed institutions, and to disorganize the whole social system. In these circumstances, it surely behoves all who rely on the efficacy of the Gospel as the surest means of promoting the peace and well-being of society, and the happiness of individuals in the present world, as well as securing their eternal felicity in the world to come, to redouble their exertions to rescue our people, by its influence, from a condition so fruitful of crime and misery, and so fraught with appalling danger. To the higher and more sacred considerations of the duty we owe to God and to our fellow-men, in respect of making known to them His will for their salvation, there is added, if we view aright our social position, the influence arising from the perils to which all that is valuable in that position must be continually exposed, where large masses of the people are living without the knowledge and the fear of God, and without the restraints on their turbulent, and sinful, and selfish propensities, which this knowledge and fear alone can effectually impose.

It is peculiarly the duty of our Church to take the lead in this good work. In the due performance of it, the alleys and thoroughfares of our cities, and the villages and hamlets of the rural districts, must be visited by a faithful and zealous Christian ministry;—the pious poor must be encouraged and comforted—the regardless reprovéd and exhorted—the ignorant and lawless instructed in their duty to God and their fellow-men—and all must be entreated and constrained to join themselves unto the Lord, and to wait upon Him in the stated and diligent use of all the appointed means of grace.

It is towards the accomplishment of these great ends that the Committee now anxiously solicit the assistance of the members and friends of the Church. Through their bounty, the Committee have been enabled to contribute towards the support of upwards of a hundred places of worship, which, but for the assistance thus given, could not have been maintained. It is impossible to over-estimate the manifold blessed effects which have resulted from the extensive agency thus employed; and it is fearful to contemplate the consequences which would necessarily attend its withdrawal. And not only is it essentially necessary to maintain, in unabated vigour, the existing agencies; but extended operations are loudly called for. Not only must the territory already gained from the spiritual wilderness be kept in full cultivation, but fresh inroads must be made on the wide domain still unrecovered, and lying in a state of noisome waste. The difficulties which recently presented themselves in the scarcity of labourers, are rapidly passing away; and the Committee, regarding the signal success which, by the Divine blessing, has already attended their exertions, as an evidence and earnest of what may be accomplished by means of a still more widely extended agency, are resolved, in the strength of Him whose cause it is, and trusting confidently to the support of their fellow-Christians, to go on extending their operations wherever the want exists, which it is their proper function to seek to supply.

The appliances by which the cases submitted to the Committee are tested, fully secure the due appropriation of the funds placed at their disposal; and the contributors may rest assured that the strictest scrutiny will continue to be observed.

The aid hitherto accorded has, indeed, been most signally blessed. There is not one congregation on the Committee's list whose numbers have not increased. In not a few of them, the increase has exceeded all expectation. But a short time ago, they met in mere handfuls; and now many of these congregations number from five hundred to one thousand souls; and there are but a very few of the chapels, even in the least populated districts, where the attendance is under two hundred and fifty. These facts prove to demonstration both the need existing of that provision which the Home Mission Scheme affords, and its efficiency in the accomplishment, practically, of the great object in view. It by no means follows, as, on superficial consideration, it might be supposed, that from the increase in their numbers which has thus happily taken place, the congregations are thereby enabled to dispense with external aid. These places of worship were never expected to maintain themselves. *They were erected expressly with the view of supplying to the poor and the outcast the blessings of a preached Gospel, and were, of course, planted in those localities, specially selected on this very account, where the people are least able, or least disposed, or, as frequently happens, both unable and uncaring to provide for themselves the means of religious instruction and superintendence.* The necessity of external aid for the maintenance of the minister, as well as for the erection of the place of worship, was all along contemplated; and till this is obtained in the best and most efficient form,—namely, that of a permanent endowment, the grants derived from the Home Mission fund are indispensably requisite.

It is in these circumstances, and on these grounds, that the Committee appeal to the friends of religion, of social order, and of all the best interests of their fellow-countrymen; and they do so in the confident expectation of cordial sympathy and liberal contribution.

By authority of the Committee,
A. L. SIMPSON, Convener.

COLONIAL SCHEME.

The Committee of the General Assembly for promoting the religious interests of Scottish Presbyterians in the Colonies, make the following appeal in behalf of the Scheme, in view of the Annual Collection, ordered for its aid by that venerable body, at its last meeting.

The interesting communications which the Colonial Committee have had lately the privilege of submitting to the members of the Church, as well as their own Report to the last General Assembly, in the Report of the recent Deputation to America, of their operations amongst our Presbyterian brethren scattered in the Colonies, are of so recent a date, that the Committee feel assured they will yet be fresh in the recollection of all who take an interest in the operations of this Scheme. And the Committee doubt not, but that the warm interest which has hitherto been manifested by the Church and people of Scotland in her Colonial Scheme, instead of suffering any diminution, continues steadily to increase. In view of the Collection now announced, the Committee would, therefore, take leave simply to submit a short statement of their operations since their last Report to the General Assembly, with a few reasons calling for more extended efforts, as well as a larger share of the Church's prayers and contributions.

Since the meeting of the last General Assembly, the Committee have been unremitting in their endeavours to obtain suitable ministers and licentiates to fill the numerous vacancies, both in America and in Australia, which were then announced. They have now to state, that in the month of June last, the Rev. James M. Smith, of the *quoad sacra* church at St. Andrew's, Galt, in the Presbytery of Hamilton, and Synod of Canada; to which place Mr. Smith proceeded shortly thereafter. At the suggestion of the Committee, and until additional ministers or mis-

sionaries were sent out, Mr. Smith has undertaken the superintendence of some of the destitute localities in the neighbourhood of Galt, and for which the Committee have engaged to grant him the sum of £50 for three years, to defray his travelling expenses.

The Rev. Thomas Haig, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Glasgow, was, soon thereafter, appointed as minister of the church at Brockville, in the Presbytery of Bathurst, and has proceeded to the sphere of his future labours. Previous to his leaving this country, the Presbytery of Glasgow met, and conferred ordination on Mr. Haig.

The Committee have lately appointed the Rev. Mr. Herdman as a missionary, to labour within the district of Pictou, and under the superintendence of that Presbytery; and they are, at present, in communication with some other ministers and licentiates of the Church, with the view of their accepting of some of the vacant churches in America; or of their proceeding there, for a time, to labour as missionaries in the more destitute localities.

The Committee regret, that hitherto they have been unable to find a suitable minister for St. Andrew's Church, in the city of St. John, New Brunswick; but they have now the near prospect of doing so. In the meantime, the Rev. Mr. Stewart, appointed by the Committee as a missionary within the bounds of the Presbytery of St. John, is, with the consent of that Presbytery, officiating in St. Andrew's Church.

Although it is to British North America that the Committee's attention has been chiefly directed, as the quarter where the greatest spiritual destitution exists amongst their Presbyterian brethren, and whence they have the most urgent calls for help, the Committee have not been unmindful of the wants of Scottish Presbyterians in other quarters.

The numerous vacancies existing in the Synod of Australia have been the subject of the Committee's anxious consideration; and they have used every means to obtain ministers to go out to that quarter. The Committee have the satisfaction of intimating that the Rev. James Coutts, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Elgin, has recently, on the recommendation of the Committee, been appointed by the Right Hon. Earl Grey to the church of St. Andrew's, Parramatta, within the Presbytery of Sydney. Mr. Coutts received the Government allowance of £150 for outfit and passage-money; and, previous to his leaving this country, he was ordained to the pastoral office by the Presbytery of Elgin. The Committee are in hope of being soon in a position to announce the appointment of a minister to Goulburn, being, at present, in correspondence with a clergyman of that Church who has expressed a wish to go out to Australia; and the Committee, in the event of his acceptance of Goulburn, have agreed to grant him a sum similar to that allowed by Government for outfit and passage-money.

Recent communications from New Zealand express the anxious desire of the Presbyterian Synod at Wellington to be provided with a minister by the Church of Scotland; and the Committee deeply regret, that it has not been in their power to send out a minister to that quarter.

The Rev. J. Radcliffe, formerly of Castle-Dawson, Ireland, who had been admitted by last General Assembly as a licentiate in connection with the Church of Scotland, and who had been favourably recommended to the Committee, has been appointed by them to the Presbyterian Church at Kingston, in the island of Jamaica; and Mr. Radcliffe has, since then, sailed for that quarter.

While the Committee have thus to notice the accession of labourers to the Colonial vineyard, and to acknowledge their gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for stirring up licentiates to offer themselves for His work, as well as for putting in the hearts of our people to give liberally of the substance wherewith God has blessed them for the carrying of the Gospel message to our distant countrymen, they have yet to deplore the great spiritual destitution which, notwithstanding, exists amongst them; and the Church's hitherto almost insignificant efforts to relieve their spiritual wants.

Scarcely a week passes without some new application from destitute congregations, or the renewal of former applications, with more urgent entreaties for