

THE MISSIONARY RECORD

OF THE

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THE FREE CHURCH DEPUTIES.

We cannot allow this number of the Record to go from the press without acknowledging with warmest gratitude the interest and kindness evinced by the Church at home towards the Church in these colonies, in the Mission of those Deputies who have been with us for a time, and who have been laboriously occupied in preaching the gospel, in addressing congregations on certain of the schemes of the Church, and taking the religious statistics of the places which they visited, with a view to the fuller supply, and more efficient contribution, of missionary labourers, to meet the spiritual destitution that prevails. It must be far from the mind of the parent Church to interfere with the successful prosecution of the object contemplated by a native, and home-trained, ministry. We believe such a ministry will be found best adapted to the circumstances and to the habits of our native population. We trust the great Head of the Church will both provide a native ministry, and open up spheres of labour for them in these provinces. It was under the conviction that there was an amount of destitution prevailing which no native supply could meet for a considerable time, that the Deputies were sent out by the Church in Scotland, and that they were directed to make those inquiries which might guide that Church in affording assistance in the existing destitution of the Colonies. The deputies have been with us, and have pursued their special work with an ability and success which few could have brought to it, and at a cost of no little amount of labor and fatigue. The addresses and sermons of the gentlemen who constituted the deputation must have been eminently useful in the localities which they

visited, and we trust have left the most salutary effects. The statistics they have taken home with them will be of the utmost service to the Colonial Committee, and the plans adopted by that committee will be the result of wisdom grounded upon experience. That they will foster and encourage every good object connected with these Colonies no one can doubt, and their supply of laborers henceforward will be directed by more certain knowledge of the actual demand, and will always be in view of what can be done by the means now employed for providing a native trained ministry. It is matter of rejoicing that there is such a ministry in prospect, and that at no distant time many of the natives of these Provinces will be preaching the glad tidings of salvation to their countrymen, and breaking the bread of life among a people whom, in a double sense, they will call their own. With the unction from on high, we believe they will be well equipped for their work—with an adequate amount of human learning, and with talents quickened and stimulated by the young age of their country, and by the prospects of a nation but entering on the race of enterprise. The young blood of the nation will be in themselves, in their hope, in their ardour, in their patriotism; and their's will be the zeal to go before the people, the leaders of the host to every good work, and with the cross as their standard. "With this conquer."

To the zeal, the ability, the pains-taking, and withal the urbanity, and Christian spirit, of the gentlemen of the deputation from the Free Church of Scotland, the warmest tribute of affection and gratitude is due. The labours of Mr. McLean in Cape Breton will not be soon