

vices of a clergyman for themselves; and in order to encourage me to come and take the oversight of their highest interest, they have resolved to procure a manse and glebe for a clergyman. They are now fully prepared to do so, and are only waiting to obtain a suitable place. With a little assistance from the Committee for two or three years, they will, God prospering, be fully able thereafter to maintain themselves. They possess the chief ingredients—willing minds and generous hearts; and I do not know where I would promise a devoted pastor more satisfaction in the prosecution of his work.

From these briefly stated facts, you will readily perceive how soon the people rally around our Church; and likewise, that the interest the Committee have taken in this field has not been without manifest good results from without at least. And their increased desire for Gospel ordinances is surely a satisfactory indication that the labour has not been in vain in the Lord. And when it is taken into account how long these people have been neglected—as shewn in my last letter to the Committee—how oft hope deferred hath made the heart sick, and that their present efforts are made in fondly cherished *anticipation*, it is believed there are few parallels, either in this country or at home, of such manifest progress in so short a time. And yet, in the Cape John section, which was hitherto most neglected, they only received sixteen Lord's day services during the first two years of my missionary labours. It is true, that all this has not been effected without labour and anxious care in some instances, and it is likewise true, that I might have accepted a call and have settled down in one or two districts, and thus have relieved myself of much labour, and the Committee to some extent at least, of the *onus* of remunerating me for my services; but I trust they will consider that it was more judicious, and for the more general interests of our Church, to collect and build up her waste places, especially when they find that now, instead of having one congregation, there are two much better prepared to support two ministers than they were then to maintain one. And I can assure you, that any one possessed of the generous feelings of humanity—not to speak of the bowels of compassion and sympathy common to every Christian—and seeing the fond and ardent attachment of the people to our beloved Church, could not but feel sad at the thought of leaving any one of them uncared-for or neglected.

Towards the close of last summer my health began to fail so fast that it became a serious question with me whether I should venture to continue to labour in even two of these sections. After many anxious thoughts, I was forced to the conclusion, that if there was any likelihood I should be spared for future usefulness in the Church of Christ, I must settle down in one charge, where I would not require to travel from one church to another. About the time my health seemed to be in the most critical state, I received a call from the Belfast congregation, which was the third time I was solicited to settle among them. Considering the state of my health at the time, and that there was only one church in that charge, I regarded this a providential opening of the great Head of the Church; so that, notwithstanding the many ties which bound me to this field, the devotedness of the people, and the sad thought of leaving so wide a field unoccupied, I conceived it my duty to accept of this call; and proceed immediately to that destitute and needy congregation. In consequence,

however, of the many urgent and pressing solicitations of the people here, combined with a growing reluctance to leave them destitute, and having been directed, during the interval between the time I accepted the call to Belfast and the time I resolved to leave for that congregation, in the gracious providence of God, to what tended, in a great measure, to relieve my ailment, I thought it advisable to remain here till the spring, in hopes that the committee might provide for their destitution before that time. And now I desire to be thankful that my health is very much improved. Many of the people here, therefore, entertain the hope that I may still remain with them; but having agreed to go to Belfast when the state of my health in a great measure rendered me unfit for active duties, it might appear unjust not to render them the best energies of my improved health. I have, however, no personal interests but those of the Church to consult, and I feel morally and in honour bound, therefore, to enter on duties there early in the spring, unless they are otherwise supplied ere that time arrives.

The Committee will thus see that, owing to circumstances which I have as briefly as possible shewn, I am necessitated to surrender my present interesting field into their hands; and to them we must look, as we most anxiously do, for labourers to occupy the field as early as possible. It is hoped that the people's readiness to repay the Committee for their share of the missionary services will serve to shew that they have not been insensible or ungrateful for your kind interest in their spiritual welfare. The sum above specified has been raised by them at very short notice, which shews that they have given with ready minds. When, moreover, you consider the active measures taken by each congregation to provide comfortable homes for their pastors, besides engaging to pay a yearly stipend of £150, it is believed their friends will be stimulated to further exertions in their behalf. This stipend may be regarded as the minimum. As the congregations increase, of which the last two years afford good encouragement, the means of support, if not found sufficient, may be increased.

Let not those who may be disposed to sympathize with this people entertain the idea that these districts are one *treeless* forest. Although the people have long wanted the ministrations of the preached Word, these forests have been giving way, during the last thirty or forty years, before the resistless energy of an industrious and sober people; so that now the scarcity of its noble and wide-spreading appearance is in many places felt, rather than its superabundance. Between the churches in each district, and almost to every door, there are roads passable for carriages. The Roger's Hill church is situated on a level road, seven or eight miles from Pictou, and the Cape John church is on another line of road, about ten miles from Pictou. This settlement, which is bordering on the sea, is one of the most flourishing districts in the country. The two churches are distant about ten miles, and two-thirds of the services are required in the Roger's Hill church. The other two churches are six miles distant, and require alternate services in each church. The aspirant to usefulness in the Lord's vineyard in this land—now almost bordering on Scotland in comparison with these distant climes to which multitudes now repair for worldly aggrandizement—may regard this field, in some respects, preferable to Scotland. Here there is no aqualid poverty, such as the eye of the devoted pastor at home

meets with, demanding his sympathy. In almost every home he may enjoy a comfortable repast as need requires, which is given with a hearty good will and joy for the visit of one whose presence they esteem above every other. These are rather plain truths to relate, but the realization of them is certainly agreeable. In fact, that which principally renders this field less desirable than that of Old Scotia, is the great lack of labourers, and the consequent loneliness and onerous duties devolving on those in the field. But he who gives himself heartily to the good work here, ought to feel that he is carrying out the true spirit of the Gospel more fully than were he to remain in highly-favoured Scotland. In the one case, he is ministering to those who have every reason to expect they shall be supplied; in the other, he is complying with the strong entreaties of those who have been long neglected, and who, unless the Lord of the harvest shall influence some one or more to come to their help, will long lie a moral wilderness.

Having submitted these facts, as illustrative of this most interesting and important field, I would most urgently, but very respectfully press their claims on the attention of the Committee, and on the attention of all who feel any interest in the ardently devoted adherents of our beloved Church. They rely on me submitting their condition to you; and I desire, in doing so, to be faithful to them and to myself. I have therefore aimed at no colouring. They look to you, hopeful and most anxious that you will do your utmost for them. They are very sensible and grateful for all you have done for them, of late years, in sending out deputations and more permanent supplies. They rejoice in every manifestation of prosperity in our beloved Zion, and often pray with you for her stability and increased usefulness. And every intimation of an additional labourer from their fond mother is hailed with universal joy. We believe, therefore, that any good done for your kinsmen "scattered abroad," shall be amply repaid with the richer blessings from the great Head of the Church resting on yourselves at home. Indeed, an attentive observer cannot but observe, that greater success has attended the Scottish Church since greater interest has been taken in the spiritual welfare of their countrymen abroad. How little was done for them during the all-absorbing years of "conflict," and during the previous years of her history, to what might have been done, and what is actually now done? And who can fail to notice the prosperous state of the Church at home, beyond the most sanguine expectations—prosperity, too, simultaneous with increased interest in their colonial brethren? Ought not this to be traced to the approbation and smiles of Him who enjoins a special care to be exercised over those of His own fold? And ought it not to be regarded a call to persevere in the same good work? Let us not be forgetful that good done to one in the name of a disciple—and not a few disciples there are here hungering and thirsting after the bread and water of life—shall not merely be rewarded in the Church on earth, but more fully in the Church triumphant.

We hope, then, while our Church is taking much interest in the heathen in the east, that, after the example of our blessed Lord, your brethren according to the flesh shall receive the first and chief share of your zeal and regard. And while there are many among us offering up earnest prayers to the Lord of the harvest to send faithful pastors to care for them, we desire to believe that He who hath the hearts of all men at his disposal, will incline and dis-