

while prosecuting their mission, and also most respectfully to submit some practical suggestions for the consideration of the House. In discharging this duty, it has been thought advisable not to enlarge upon those minute details which have been laid before the Colonial Committee, and with which it is the province of that body more properly to deal,—nor upon the relative claims of the numerous congregations from which earnest appeals for ministers have been forwarded,—nor upon the strong and intelligent attachment to the Church of Scotland, which by all classes in the course of their mission was manifested,—nor upon the cordial intercourse which they enjoyed, not only with those belonging to our own Church, but also with many conscientiously attached to other religious denominations. Upon these topics much might be reported, deeply interesting in itself, and honourable to the Church; but it may be more expedient to confine this narrative to a general view of the state of the Provinces, taking care, however, to furnish the Assembly with sufficient materials from which to form a correct opinion on the various subjects alluded to.

The instructions handed to the Deputation, previously to their leaving this country, embraced the following points, upon which they were desired to obtain authentic information.—*First*, The actual destitution of the means of grace among our expatriated countrymen; *Second*, The means of education which exist among them; *Third*, The progress made in obtaining glebes in connection with the charges in Canada; *Fourth*, The state of the clergy reserves; and, *Fifth*, the position and prospects of Queen's College, Kingston. Upon these points the Deputation, wherever they went, made the fullest inquiry.

1. *Destitution of the Means of Grace.*—Nova Scotia was the first province visited, and Halifax the first city in it. On landing there on the 15th of June a consultation was immediately held with our two respected ministers in Halifax, and the members of the Lay Association in connection with the Church of Scotland, as to the actual wants of the province, and the best mode in which the Deputation might dispose of their time so as to accomplish the most good. Having referred to the Lay Association, it is right to make the Assembly aware of the growing influence which that body is deservedly exercising, the enlightened steadfastness of its members to the principles and constitution of the Church, and their unfeigned desire to promote the spiritual welfare of their brethren in the remoter parts of the country. They did much to repel the assaults which some time ago were made upon the Church of their fathers, and to set in its proper light her present position in opposition to misrepresentations regarding it industriously circulated. It will be evident to the Assembly, that the advice of such a body was most invaluable to the Deputation at the commencement of their important labours, and in no case was the advice which they received found to be otherwise than judicious, when tested by experience. Hours of anxious consultation were held with upwards of eighty of its members; and next to the statements given them of the thoroughly missionary spirit that pervades our Church at home, the prosperity with which her enterprises have been blessed, and the general usefulness of which she is honoured to be an instrument, what seemed most earnestly to engage their minds was the sad privation of the means of grace which thousands of their countrymen were suffering, and deep anxiety that it were even partially relieved. Their earnestness did them honour; their anxieties about their brethren were creditable to the best sympathies of their hearts. Too painfully true did the Deputation find their melancholy statements. District after district was visited, sometimes by the members of the Deputation together, but generally singly, that a more extensive field might be overtaken; and terms too strong cannot be employed to express either the lamentable situation of one congregation after another, or the feeling of sorrow in which their wants were conveyed, or the severe trial which it would prove to them to turn their backs upon the Church in which they were baptized, at whose schools they had been educated, at whose communion-tables they had sat, and in whose churchyards the ashes of their parents and friends are lying, and be driven to seek ordinances from the hands of any others than those of her ministers. Wherever

the Deputation went, as the documents lodged with the Committee amply show, these painful facts were realized; and therefore this venerable House will not be surprised that the Deputation unite most earnestly in urging them upon its consideration. At least fifteen additional labourers are immediately required to supply the districts in Nova Scotia, of the description now referred to. Halifax is the capital of the colony; and, although there are two respected ministers officiating there, yet they have been so many years in America, and are feeling the infirmities of age coming so rapidly upon them, that they are not able to discharge the duties with the vigour which they desire. It is creditable, in these circumstances, to the parties interested in them, that they have resolved to employ a third minister to preach alternately for each of them, and have guaranteed a suitable stipend for him without infringing upon the incomes of their pastors. An application to this effect, along with those from many other congregations, is lying upon the table of the Committee. In connection with Nova Scotia, Cape Breton was visited. In this romantic country there is vast religious destitution everywhere. Owing to the remoteness of its situation, as well as other causes, it was not visited by the former Deputation. The people had but few sources of information about the state of our Church; and such as they did enjoy were not always those that gave the fairest impression either of her character or principles. They told how wearied they had been for some accredited missionary to explain to them the truth or erroneousness of the vital changes which, they had been assured, had not only disorganized the Church, but altered her entire complexion as a Church of Christ. When that missionary went, he was welcomed with open arms. From their glens and sequestered settlements they gathered around him to hear the words of Salvation with a faithful account of the principles and operations of our Church, and in warm terms expressed their joy that they are still cared for by their brethren at home.

The second province visited was Prince Edward's Inland, in which a great proportion of the people are from Scotland. Charlotte Town, the capital, with its large and attached congregation, has been vacant for four years. Indeed, in the whole island which is about 140 miles in length, and about 40 in breadth, there is at present only one minister in connection with our Church; and, notwithstanding his zeal and abundant labours, it is evident that he can do but little to supply the wants of the many thousands scattered over so wide a surface. This island is a very important one ecclesiastically, as has been explained to the Committee, and would immediately require several additional labourers.

The third province visited was New Brunswick, and there the list of vacancies, as furnished to the Committee, is also very large. Almost all of them some member of the Deputation visited; and, whether they did so on a week-day or a Sabbath-day, their ministrations were numerous attended by people still reiterating the appeal for ministers to be sent to them. In the capital of New Brunswick there are two congregations, both of them vacant. They are quite able and willing to furnish ample stipends to faithful and pious ministers. One of them indeed has set an example of munificence in this respect indicative both of sincere attachment to the Church and of the value put by it upon religious ordinances. The trustees and elders, mostly all in opulent circumstances, confided to the Deputation a bond for £500 a year of stipend to a minister who may go to take charge of them, along with a guarantee, at the rate of £300 a-year, exclusive of his expenses to and from America, to a preacher who may be appointed by the Committee to officiate until a properly qualified minister can be provided. At present a missionary, sent out to labour under the direction of the presbytery in which St. John's is situated, is officiating, and the large church is every Sabbath filled by a highly respectable congregation. It is most sincerely hoped that this leading station will be speedily supplied by a permanent minister; indeed it is of the utmost importance that it be so. Nor should the case of the other congregation in the city be overlooked. Quite the contrary. They stand fast by the Church notwithstanding peculiar trials to which they have been

exposed, their former minister having been obliged some time ago to leave the fabric in which they worshipped in consequence of doctrinal errors which he had espoused. Their case has also been earnestly recommended to the consideration of the Committee. To New Brunswick generally the same terms are applicable as to its wants and their urgency which have applied to the provinces already described. These wants are deplorable throughout the whole colony. Our ministers at present in it are exemplary for devotedness; but, compared with the harvest, it may emphatically be said, the labourers are indeed few.

From these Lower Provinces the Deputation proceeded to Canada East, and the first place which they visited was Montreal. Besides the Rev. Mr. McGill (Dr. Mathieson, the other minister in that city, being from home in consequence of indisposition), the Deputation were immediately surrounded by many enlightened and warm friends of the Church, mostly members of the Lay Association recently established there. Of this Association the Deputation are anxious to speak in terms of grateful acknowledgement. It was organized three years ago, while the former Deputation was in Canada, and is one of the many proofs of the fidelity and talent with which the members of that Deputation fulfilled their mission. Indeed, wherever the present Deputation went where the former had been, their labours were spoken of with high respect and affection. The Lay Association referred to was established for the purpose of helping their poorer countrymen to erect places of worship in the remoter settlements, and remunerating the services of Ministers among them. In this benevolent work they have done much that is praiseworthy, and at considerable cost. A few months ago a periodical under its patronage, and with the approval of the Synod of Canada, was commenced, entitled "The Presbyterian." The object of this publication is to circulate information about our Missionary Schemes and other collateral subjects, and at the same time to furnish matter for Sabbath-day reading to our more destitute Canadian brethren. It is with great pleasure that an assurance is conveyed to the Assembly, after a perusal of all the numbers which have been produced, that this small publication, both in its tone and spirit, is worthy of the patronage of our friends who have undertaken it, and promises to be of essential advantage in the dissemination of Divine Truth. By the members of this body, too, the clamant necessities of Canada were powerfully and affectingly urged. They were so in private and in public. The two kirk-sessions over which the Rev. Dr. Mathieson and the Rev. Mr. McGill ably preside, joined with great earnestness their testimony to the same effect. After preaching in Montreal on the Sabbath, and preaching to and addressing a crowded and highly respectable meeting on a week-day, the Deputation proceeded, by the advice which they received, to visit not only Quebec and the other principal cities, but also many of the sequestered hamlets and settlements; and they beg unanimously to say, as the result of their journeys, that it is impossible to overstate the religious wants which they witnessed, or the fresh intensity which was all along awakened in their minds, that these wants were even partially supplied. Fortunately the Synod of Canada was holding its annual Assembly at this season in Toronto, and the Deputation had the happiness of being present at several of its sittings. Nothing could exceed the cordiality of their reception by that venerable Court, the interest which its members, through their Moderator, expressed in the welfare of the Church of Scotland, and the value which they put upon the circumstance of another Deputation having been sent to visit the vast numbers of countrymen whose wants it was totally out of their power to supply. The Synod was assured, in return, of the deep interest which the Church feels in their prosperity, of your most anxious desire to strengthen their hands, and of the unfeigned joy with which you always hear that the work of the Lord is prospering among their flocks. A special diet was appointed for conference with the Deputation, in the course of which much valuable information was obtained, which has been handed over to the Committee. Again, the religious necessities of Canada were reiterated; and, although the statements were painful,