

The necessity of a minister in this place is great, and the prospect of encouragement very good.

I may also add, that the population is now a spreading one. Instead of resting in the little towns, numbers are now taking up the rich agricultural lands of the interior. Homesteads are rising up all over the country, and the population becoming settled, and not migrating. To use the current phrase, the colony is now being "built up." Now this question remains to be answered: Will it be built up *with* or without a Church in connection with the Church of Scotland? If *with*, immediate action is required, for if the present opportunities are permitted to pass away, it must be *without*. Her sons will lapse away into other communions, and her reputation as a missionary Church be seriously injured.

Another question has also to be put to practical issue. The Churches of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada have in times past received ministers and encouragement from the parent Church, which though inadequate to their wants, still contributed to the establishment of an earnest and effective ministry, and a loyal and pious people. Shall these blessings radiate? Having received from the East will they refuse to send to the West. Brethren—I beseech you to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

I have written to all these Churches by this mail, suggesting that they should each take the matter up at the next meeting of their respective Synods, give a deliverance promising aid, and appointing committees to act in concert with the other committees for definite action during the year.

May I venture to suggest what shape definite action might take. Say—The Synod of Canada to appoint a minister for Cariboo, the Synod of New Brunswick to send a Licensed Teacher (married,) who might establish a Grammar School and Boarding School for boys. As there is an opening for this and the fees are high (\$5 per month,) this might be done at a small annual expense and would be the commencement for a future college—and the Synod of Nova Scotia to appoint a minister for the districts of Carvichan, Saltspring and Comox, and all to organize committees for collecting funds for such a mission, so that the admission of this colony into the New Dominion may be signalized by an effort, the handsomeness of which shall manifest to the world the vitality of the new nation.

The probability of our speedy confederation would tend to give interest to the mission in the East.

I earnestly pray that the Fathers and Brethren will take the position of the Church of Scotland into consideration, and if unwilling to act upon my information, to appoint one

of their number to inspect this field and report upon it. I am, Rev. & Dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,
THOMAS SOMERVILLE, M. A.

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Letter from Newfoundland.

THE subjoined communication from Newfoundland, will we are sure be received by all as a welcome contribution, not only to the Union question but to our knowledge of the state of our church in that Colony. The true way to view the union question is to consider calmly and practically its bearings on us as a church, and on the interests of religion in each and every part of our wide field of operations. Similar contributions from persons qualified to speak with reference to its probable effects in Prince Edward's Island, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, should be welcomed by all: as at least giving us valuable information, and the elements for coming to a carefully matured conclusion.

To the Editor of the Monthly Record:

SIR,—Your March No. contains a brief but almost exhaustive communication on Union among Presbyterians, from the pen of the respected Minister of St. Matthew's, Halifax. It has but one fault, it is too clear; it leaves opponents nothing to reply. It would possibly have been more effective had it been more feeble. I judge that it has produced little result in the minds of those opposed to union, from the fact that your succeeding numbers, so far as they have come into my hands, contain no remarks on the subject from other members of the Synod. Opponents have nothing to reply; but, though their arguments are answered, they will, I fear, persist in resistance. Be it so. The time will come nevertheless. Unfortunate delays in the transmission of the *Records* to this quarter prevented me from noticing the question at the time when it was mooted, and now I am too late in the field to add any force to the efforts of those who may be in favour of prosecuting the union at your meeting of Synod; a meeting which inexorable circumstances forbid me to attend. Yet permit a few words bearing on the subject as it appears from the point of view occupied by one in a very isolated position.

I. The present position of Presbyterianism in Newfoundland. Here we have three Presbyterian congregations; two in the capital, St. John's, and one in the thriving town of Harbor Grace, some forty miles distant. Of these three, two are nominally in connection with the Free Church, and the third is nominally in connection with the established Church of Scotland. In point of numerical strength, Free St. Andrew's, in St. John's, stands highest, numbering from four to five hundred persons all told; St. Andrew's, in St. John's, (Church of Scotland,) second,