

In forming a Society to send the gospel of salvation to destitute regions, and to aid feeble churches in sustaining their pastors, our object was to accomplish by united effort an amount of good which lay beyond the reach of single-handed effort; and, as firm believers in the potency and adaptation of the voluntary principle in religion to evangelize the Province, we are persuaded that, under the blessing of God, our society is destined to gladden many hearts, and bring many a wanderer to the feet of Jesus.

The Board have had such obstacles to encounter as are incident to the commencement of every new enterprise; but nothing has for a moment concealed from their eyes the wants of the Province; and their frequent intercourse and mutual labours, have cemented their souls more closely together, and we trust served to quicken their faith and their zeal.

Our work is just opening. We have been able thus far to do little more than to make a cautious commencement; and our efforts have been somewhat retarded by the sickness of our General Agent, with whom we most deeply sympathize. But our labour is increasing upon our hands; and we shall be called upon to engage in it with greater vigour than heretofore. Our field is as promising as it is destitute; and our God is as willing as he is able to bless efforts put forth to further his glory amongst men. From many quarters we hear the intelligence that the people would most gladly avail themselves of Baptist preaching, did such an opportunity offer; but, after waiting for years in the hope of enjoying such a privilege, they have begun to despair, and seek religious instruction wherever they can find it. Let a devoted man of God enter such a field, and soon he will be surrounded by a glad audience. But here is the point where an appeal is made to us, as the almoners of the bounties of the churches. Men cannot give themselves wholly to the work, and labour amongst those destitute regions as they ought to labour, without something to support themselves and families. Where churches exist they are often too feeble to sustain pastors, and the consequence is that they must either receive assistance from without, or pine away in destitution; and where no churches exist, there our denomination is losing ground every day, and state-hirelings, the advocates of antiquated error, are the sole instructors of the people. The Board have felt the force of these things; and have done something to meet the claims of the Province upon us, and hope hereafter to be enabled to do much more.

We have at present six missionaries in the field, who are labouring with acceptance amongst the churches:—

Brother D. Way, who was appointed to labour in the region lying between the

Chippawa River and Lake Erie; Z. W. Canfield, amongst the Tuscarora Indians; A. Campbell, in Chatham; W. Hurlbert, in Reach and surrounding region; W. Geary, amongst the destitute churches in the Haldimand Association; and W. Miller, in King.

These missionaries have had little time, as yet, to see the fruits of their labours; but they have many tokens for good, as their reports abundantly attest.

Brother Way, writing from his field says:

“About six weeks ago, I was invited by a desponding brother and sister, to preach to the church in Canboro. I went; and, thank God, here I will date the beginning of better days. I preached the gospel to the people. The Lord was in our midst. Backsliders wept; and sinners cried, ‘What shall we do to be saved?’ The work has become general; and we rejoice to hear young converts telling what God has done for them. I have baptized seven individuals, all heads of families, and a goodly number of youths are proposed, ready and willing to follow their Saviour. Since the fire broke out here, the sparks have blown into other neighbourhoods; and I have been obliged to send for brother Stillwell to come over the Grand River and help me; and we have our hands and our hearts full. We meet with some sectarian opposition; but the Lord is on our side, and all is working for the best. I wish you were here, if it were God’s will, to witness the glory of the Lord on the banks of the Grand River.”

Since the reception of the above report, we learn that brethren Way and Stillwell have baptized eleven others, and that the good work still goes on.

Brother Wm. Miller, our missionary in King, writes us as follows:—

“I entered this field of labour about the middle of April last. At that time it was evident to every careful observer, that the things of God had gained a deep interest in the minds of many—that thoughtless sinners were awakened to a sense of their guilt and danger, earnestly inquiring ‘What shall we do to be saved?’ I rejoice now to be able to say, that we have not been disappointed as to the result. Sixteen have in all been baptized, and added to the church; and they have all, as yet, adorned the profession which they have made. We have at present some inquiring, and some have sought admission into the church, concerning whom we are not yet satisfied. Our meetings are well attended, especially on the Lord’s day. Our congregation is composed of English and Gaelic hearers. I preach three times every Lord’s day—twice in Gaelic and once in English. During the week, I sometimes preach three and four times, besides visiting and conversing with inquirers. I have four stations which I visit as often as my time will permit. Some of these are distant from my place of residence eleven miles; and I have often to wade through bad and muddy roads to the place of appointment. But the consolations of the gospel are sufficient to support us under all our trials.”

Brother Campbell, our missionary at Chatham, says:—

“During the time that I have been labouring in Chatham, I have had to struggle against many difficulties. The opposition of other denominations and the want of a chapel, have been great impediments to the progress of our cause; but still I am encouraged to think that the cause in which I am engaged is advancing in the town and vicinity. The number of our friends is on the increase; although not increasing as fast we could wish. In the course of a year, I trust that we shall be able to erect a respectable and commodious place of worship of our own. During two or three months

past, my time has been employed in making an effort to raise means to build a meeting-house. I am happy to state that I have succeeded in getting subscriptions and collections to the amount of eleven hundred dollars. I am now taking a general tour through the churches, soliciting their assistance to help us to build a house of worship. I am kindly received by all the friends; and hope by their liberality to be able to erect a suitable house for this rapidly increasing town. There is not, that I am aware of, a single church of our denomination, within fifty miles of Chatham, that enjoys the stated preaching of the gospel, or a single house of worship within the same distance, except one which is now in process of erection. The destitution of these western parts, of the stated ministry of the word, and places of worship, is almost unparalleled. When will the desert and solitary places blossom as the rose?”

To offer any comment upon the above extracts would be to diminish their force. While the success spoken of, must awaken emotions of joy and gratitude in all our hearts, the destitution revealed, cannot fail to deepen our impressions of the importance of our Society, and urge us forward with greater earnestness in the glorious work of giving the gospel to the needy in our country.

A. T. McCORD, Treasurer, in account with the Regular Baptist Missionary Society of Canada.

Dr.	
June 25, 1852. To Balance on hand, as per account rendered and published	- £97 6 7½
July. Amount received on account	
of Toronto Church	- 2 17 0
Rev. Mr. Rouse, Bayham	- 0 5 0
Second Townsend Church	- 0 15 0
Per Rev. W. Milne:	
Collections at Haysville	£1 3 1½
Kyte’s Chapel	- 0 12 0
Bell’s Corner	- 0 4 4½
Eleventh Con., North-East Hope	- 1 11 0
Fifth do., Wellesley	- 1 4 6
Samuel McKee	- 0 5 0
	5 0 0
B. McIntosh, Brantford	- 0 5 0
	£106 9 1½

Cr.	
July 26, 1852. By amount paid Rev. A. Campbell, Chatham	- £6 5 0
Balance	- 100 4 1½
	£106 9 1½

A. T. McCORD, Treasurer.
Audited and found correct.
JOHN GILMOUR.
Wm. McMASTER.
Toronto, October 13, 1852.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD.
BOND STREET, TORONTO,
Thursday, October 14, 1852.
The new Board assembled in the vestry of the Baptist Church.
Present—Revs. J. Pyper, D.D., J. Inglis, A. Slaght, J. Gilmour, J. Gundry, A. Duncan, W. Hewson, W. Miller, J. E. Ryerson, A. Campbell, W. Cook, Brethren McCord, Carter, J. R. Cook.
D. Shearer in the chair. Prayer by Rev. J. Inglis.