

and called together the principal people of the parish to take farewell. But I suspect there was more to detain him from home than mere Assembly business. I could go on giving many instances of such stories, which greatly amused and interested us, but I fear my paper is wandering too far away from its direct missionary objects, and I can only assure the reader that our visit to Shetland was strictly confined to duty, though the temptation to write of these details is sometimes too strong to be resisted.

In my last paper, I described the condition of the mission stations at Lunna and Whalsay. The next place we visited was the parish of Fetlar, where we were invited to report to the Endowment Committee on the proposed endowment of the mission station of North Yell. As Mr. Webster, the excellent and zealous minister of Fetlar, has himself described the wants of this place in the last 'Missionary Record' and said something of the efforts that have been making, I need say the less here, save to add the testimony of strangers to that given by the minister on the spot. On Thursday afternoon we landed at Fetlar, and gave intimation of a meeting to be held there next day, and also sent a boat across to North Yell to give notice of a meeting there on Saturday. At Fetlar the church was quite full, and at North Yell well filled, at our meetings. I think I cannot give a better idea of the need for endowment, than by simply recounting what we said and did. On Saturday, with a strong and favourable breeze, we left the manse of Fetlar, for the church of North Yell, in our yacht. We left at ten o'clock. Everything was in favour; nothing could have been more so; yet we did not land in North Yell till after one o'clock. On Sunday morning, again (we had returned the evening before), Mr. Lang started for North Yell, riding over part of Fetlar, and crossing between the nearest points. The weather seemed to both of us strangers not in the least threatening. There was a slight ripple on the fresh water loch near the manse, but in Tresta Bay not a wave was tipped with foam. We heard with great great surprise the whispers of the morning that it might be too rough to cross; but Mr. Lang found that it could just be done, and, besides an hour's riding, he took two hours and a half to cross the Sound. In former days (not so many years ago) the aged minister of Fetlar had to overtake the whole work without any missionary, and for eight weeks together it has been impossible to have service at North Yell. However, the state of things there is better now; and the thousand people who live in that district of the parish have had, for some years, the services of one of the most esteemed of the Royal Bounty Missionaries. He too has been ordained, so that the people of the district are not so badly off. But they are supplied, be it observed, just by being practically cut off from their parish

minister, and by having all the ministerial duty there done by the missionary; and yet that missionary has to labour there on the barest pittance, without status, without a session, without even a manse. Mr. Webster, the parish minister, has taken up the matter with the greatest zeal, and has personally pleaded the cause in various parts of Scotland. The Synod of Shetland have backed his efforts by a strong minute, of date the 30th April 1862; and the best proof of the need felt in the district for the manse and the endowment is, the sacrifices which have been made for these objects. Mr. Webster has sent me a paper, showing what the district has done. The whole gross rental of North Yell is £600 a-year. The two largest heritors in the parish have not as yet forwarded their contributions, which however are expected; yet in that poor locality £190, 10s. have been raised for the manse and endowment. Out of that sum £50 have been promised by the minister, £50 by the missionary and £30 by the poor parishioners "in work, hosiery, and money." The heritors have given a perpetual right to peats, and land which at present has been valued at £30, and which, when improved, will be worth £120. Edinburgh, Leith, Aberdeen, and Brechin have also done something, but I am unable to say how much. The Duke of Argyll, Lord Polwarth, and others, have sent subscriptions and letters of warm sympathy in the object proposed. The Endowment Committee have not yet been able to come to any final resolution on the subject of Shetland chapels. The subject has been before them, and is still under anxious consideration. But speaking individually, and for myself alone, it surely will never be that, while in all other parts of Scotland a chapel applying for endowment needs only supply £1000 from its own resources in order to enjoy the benefit of that great enterprise, in Shetland, the poorest portion of the Church, a district should be asked to subscribe more. That, we cannot believe. Nor can I entertain the idea that, while the hearts of churchmen have been so open towards the Endowment Scheme everywhere else, they will be closed towards an appeal so plain and practical and needful coming from the distant north.

The island of Yell is about twenty miles long by about four broad. The Royal Bounty mission church is at the north-east corner, the parish church of Mid Yell on the east coast, about the centre of the island, and the Royal Bounty station of South Yell at the south-east corner. The schools have followed the churches. One is near North Yell church, another (a fine building) midway nearly between it and Mid Yell, the parish school near Mid Yell church, and a Society's School at the south of the island towards the west. With the exception of the last, the west side of the island has been ill provided for. There is a large population at West Yell