

pare for the General Assembly, so soon as received, as in all probability it will enter fully into the details of their proceedings, and give a systematized view of the measures they would suggest for adoption, in order to ameliorate the evils they witnessed. We cannot, however, forbear in the meantime to give a report of the speeches at the public meeting in Edinburgh, affording, as they do, much information on the state of our Church, and a rich treat of stirring eloquence and Christian feeling.

We are bold to affirm that both Deputations, that sent forth last year, and that in 1845, have done much good; and we confidently believe and trust that a still greater amount of good flowing out of them, is yet in store for us. Coming with the message of peace and in the spirit of peace, they encouraged their brethren and comforted their people. They confirmed the minds of many, perplexed by the partial, and, we are sorry to add, in many instances false statements that had been presented of the question that agitated the Parent Church. And we firmly believe that they were the means under God, of awakening in the hearts of many others, a deeper concern for their everlasting interests. Their visits were short. They have passed away; but they are still remembered. Like the rich warm glow of the western sky, after the sun has sunk beneath the horizon, tinging the surface of our lakes, and empurpling our pine forests with a mellow light, the softening peaceful influence of their visits yet remains behind, and is felt upon the heart, perhaps with a holier, more transforming power, than when their voices were heard proclaiming the Gospel of peace and love. They have not only left behind them a savour of divine life, as we humbly trust; but they have awakened, and are spreading wider, and deeper, an interest among our countrymen at home for the spiritual welfare of their expatriated brethren, and doing what lies in their power to have the Gospel of Salvation preached to every creature.

The first Deputation arrived shortly after a storm had passed over the Church of our Fathers, scattering and disuniting her members and rushing in its fury over the broad Atlantic, threatened utterly to destroy that tender branch that in the depths of the forest was just beginning to expand its leaves. At a time when the Parent Church was banned, and excommunicated as Christless, by ingrates who had been nursed in her bosom, and when we were confidently told that she was tottering to her downfall, did they appear among us. Under these circumstances, nothing more surprised many than to hear them affirm,—an affirmation repeatedly expressed, and borne out by the whole tenor of their conduct,—that the Church of Scotland did not need, and did not claim the support of the Presbyterians of Canada—that they came here, not seeking our con-

currence with her proceedings, nor demanding an acknowledgement from us of her jurisdiction and authority, but to express her love and regard for the Presbyterian Church of Canada, as an independent branch of the Universal Church of Christ, yet intimately connected with her by the most sacred ties, and to inquire on the spot, in what way she could most effectually aid and encourage those who had suffered "cruel mockings" for maintaining that connection—that theirs was altogether a Mission of good will, and designed entirely for our benefit, and not of those who sent them—that there was one thing that excited the deepest regret in the Parent Church, and that was, her inability in existing circumstances, to send out, pious and active Ministers to take charge of the Congregations whose Ministers had seceded, or who had returned to their native land—at the same time in behalf of their Church, promising that her utmost energies would be put forth to have this deficiency supplied with the least possible delay.

The Second Deputation also arrived most opportunely. The course of preparatory study for the holy ministry in the Church of Scotland is long and extensive. For this reason the promise given by the first Deputation could not be for some years implemented, and the saddening effects of hope long deferred were beginning to be experienced by those who had been waiting in expectation of a minister from the beloved Church of their Fathers. Their hopes were reanimated with the tidings which the Second Deputation was commissioned to bear. Many young men of high talents, piety, and zeal, have been studying for the ministry. Some of these have been recently licensed, others are on the eve of receiving from their respective Presbyteries commissions to preach the Gospel, and not a few of them have expressed their desire to devote their services to the Lord in the Colonial Vineyard. The Second Deputation, after exercising the same indefatigable zeal and holy prudence in the discharge of the delicate duties of their Mission, is now endeavouring to awaken the public mind to a sense of the duty which the Christian Church owes to their fellow Christians over the world, and bringing the information they collected in this country, to bear on the consciences and missionary spirit of the young probationers. Let the prayers of the Church for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on their efforts be offered up: and we may soon expect a large supply of well qualified and devoted young men for the work of the ministry. This is the ulterior and greater good we hope will result from the Mission of the Deputations,—the crowning blessing of their labours; and, unless it be fully and speedily realized, we can only look forward to the painful certainty, not only of seeing the good, already effected, undone,

but also, a state of utter indifference superinduced on the ruins. "The last state will be worse than the first." It is men, prudent, pious, and devoted we want; none others will do, and that the members of both Deputations know well; men whose attainments and worth will be their letters of recommendation, and the most convincing proof, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, that there remaineth enough of divine life in the Church of Scotland both for the dispensation of Spiritual gifts to her own Members, and the diffusion of divine truth over the world.

Scarcely could human zeal and human exertions have done more, than has been accomplished by both Deputations. We are thankful unto God, and look to Him for the completion of the work. Yet, we would desire to see another, but of a different kind. There is a vast amount of lay energy lying dormant, for the want of some active agency to call it forth—in some instances owing to not being sufficiently alive to the obligations upon all the Members of Christ's body to do what in them lies to extend his kingdom—in others, where a sense of duty is not awaiting, a due knowledge of the proper manner to organize the inactive mass is awaiting. Could we indulge the hope of seeing a Lay Deputation—one composed of Elders of the Church—men of such enlarged views and business habits as Sir Charles Fergusson of Kilkerran, we might be bold enough to promise such a consolidation of our Church, and such an extension of active Christian benevolence among our people, as it would be vain, we fear, to look for by the application of any agency we ourselves could bring into play. Few of our Ministers, though faithful to their pulpit duties, are skilled in the work of the platform, or in organizing or conducting the machinery necessary for the movement of the public mind. Besides, they feel a natural delicacy in taking the lead in any scheme even of a benevolent nature, which requires money to carry it fully out; and, if they did, the niggardly and penurious who grudge to lay out a sixpence to promote the cause of Christ, would not fail to ascribe their activity to interested motives, and thus bring a reproach on religion itself.

It was with a view of awakening the Lay energies of our Church, and bringing all our Members to feel the incumbent obligation upon them to do what they can in their respective spheres, and according to their several abilities to promote religion, that our Association was formed; though, it would appear, we have held out our light so feebly that hitherto it has failed to attract the notice of others, or to induce them to form similar associations. A Lay Deputation from the Church of our Fathers might have more influence. We have accordingly thrown out the hint, and would be glad to hear from others the *pros* and *cons* as to its ultimate adoption.