

## MISSIONARY MEETING AT KEENE.

In accordance with the arrangement of Presbytery, a missionary meeting was held at Keene, on the evening of Monday, the 2nd of February. All the members of Presbytery were present upon the occasion, but two, who were unable to be forward so early in the week, on account of the greatness of their distance. The evening being fine, a large number of the congregation were present, which evidently showed something of interest in the cause of missions. After praise and prayer by the pastor of the congregation, Thomas Short, Esq., was called to the chair, who presided with his usual ability. Mr. Short having briefly explained the object of the meeting, introduced, as the first speaker, Rev. Mr. Smith of Grafton. Mr. Smith delivered a clear and forcible speech, showing that as the gospel is God's appointed remedy for the restoration of a fallen and guilty world, it is the duty of all Christians to seek to make it known. Mr. Andrews next addressed the meeting, showing that just in proportion as the Church, in any age, was characterized for spirituality, zeal, and liberality, just in the same proportion did she become extended. Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Cobourg, with his usual ability, exhibited the awfully degraded state of heathen lands. Rev. Mr. Roger, of Peterboro', in his clear and pointed manner, enforced the claims of missions upon the people. Mr. McAleese, the Presbytery's missionary, then entered the church, who delivered an excellent speech, taking a survey of the state of the world, and what the gospel had yet to effect in it. After the congregation had joined in singing a few verses of the 18th paraphrase—"Behold the mountain of the Lord," &c.—they were dismissed with the benediction.

All present seemed gratified with the proceedings, and we have no reason to doubt, that many who attended, will more cordially co-operate in the cause of missions during the ensuing year. Such meetings, Mr. Editor, are calculated to produce the most happy effects in those churches and districts in which they are held. By the missionary intelligence communicated, an impulse is given to the missionary spirit, a sense of gratitude for the gospel is produced, and obligation is deepened. We should feel sorry, if any congregations connected with our Church should not hail with delight such meetings. They are, by doing so, denying themselves one of their greatest privileges, and one of the best means of promoting their spirituality and growth in grace. Such meetings may be truly regarded as times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

May the Great Head of the Church impart a blessing to this, and any other kindred instrumentality for promoting his glory in this land; and may the time soon come, when all who ought to acknowledge the claims of Christ, shall be willing to do so, and dedicate of their substance for the advancement of his cause, both at home and abroad.

F. A.

**FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—The members and adherents of this Church in Belleville have just completed a splendid new stone Church on John Street, which is to be dedicated on Sabbath next, 11th January. The design was prepared by Mr. Thomas, Architect, of Toronto, and has been followed in almost every particular. The style is Gothic, and the finish inside is probably unlike any other Church in Canada, having, as it is termed, an "open roof." It is seated for 500 persons. The pulpit is also in the Gothic style, and is decorated with rich cushions, &c. The cost of the building, exclusive of the land, is between £1100 and £1200. We cannot help admiring the spirited enterprise of our Presbyterian neighbours. They are entitled to the thanks of their fellow-townsmen for the ornament they have added to the town. May they go on and prosper, is our fervent desire. The members, as

a mark of their esteem for their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Gregg, have presented him with a gown which cost £15.—*Intelligencer.*

**FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELLEVILLE.**—The ceremony of opening this Church took place on Sabbath, the 11th January. The services in the morning were conducted by the Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Cobourg, who delivered a very impressive sermon from Ezra, chapter vi. verses 15 and 16. The text chosen was singularly appropriate, and the subject lost nothing in interest by the manner in which it was handled by the preacher. The beautiful parallel which he drew between the then present occasion and the one referred to in the text, was striking, and evidently made a deep impression on the minds of all present.

The afternoon services commenced at half-past two, P. M., and were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Grafton, who preached from Romans xii. 2. There was present at this service, as in the morning, a very crowded congregation, and the able discourse of the Rev. Mr. Smith was listened to with the deepest interest. We were much pleased to observe also the improvement in the singing in this Church, which is now under the leadership of Mr. Washburn, and the choir has, we understand, recently received some valuable accessions to its numbers, particularly amongst the fairer portion, who will add most materially to this important part of public worship. The chaste and elegant interior of the Church, the solemnity of the occasion, the swelling music of the choir, brought forcibly to our mind the language of the poet,—

— "the long drawn aisle, and fretted vault,  
The pealing Anthem."

The Rev. Mr. Burns, of Kingston, preached in the evening from Galatians, i. 11. He has preached frequently in Belleville during the last few years, and has become a great favorite, which will perhaps account for the crowd which gathered to hear him in the evening. Extra benches and chairs were distributed along the aisles, but the people continuing to pour in, it was found necessary to appropriate the vacant space around the pulpit, the stairs leading to it, and every other available space for their accommodation, and then, we are informed, that great numbers had to go away, finding it impossible to penetrate the dense crowd which filled the porch and the aisles of the Church. As the Free Church is supported entirely on the voluntary principle, we were glad to see that this seemed to make no difference during the services, with a considerable portion of the congregations, who belonged to other churches not holding to that principle. We believe there are few towns in Canada where a better, or more kindly feeling prevails amongst the various Christian denominations than in Belleville. This was manifest on Sunday last, and if additional proof were wanting it is to be found in the fact that the aggregate amount collected during the day, for the purpose of liquidating the debt on the Church, amounted to the large sum of £128.

The ceremony of opening the Free Presbyterian Church, Belleville, will not be soon forgotten, and as often as any other denomination of our Christian friends here shall build for themselves an edifice dedicated to the service of the Most High, may it be in our power to notice the occasion under similar pleasing circumstances with the present.—*Hastings Chronicle.*

## RED RIVER—INTERESTING INTELLIGENCE.

To the Editor of the Record.

RED RIVER, Dec. 17, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I make no doubt that many of your readers are desirous of hearing some intelligence of the state of matters in this remote, but interesting settlement. I therefore note for their informa-

tion the following particulars, which you are at liberty to publish in any form you please:—

The Red River Settlement, or, as it is called in legal documents, Assiniboine, is situated in the Hudson's Bay Territory, the centre point being about 97° West Longitude, and 50° North Latitude, and being about 70 miles north of the boundary line of the United States. The Red River, from which it derives its ordinary name, rises within the United States Territory, near the sources of the Mississippi, and, as to its general course, flowing nearly due north for between 300 and 400 miles, falls at last into Lake Winnipeg, the great central basin, where the waters of an immense extent of these northern regions are collected, and then discharge themselves by the Nelson River into Hudson's Bay. It is here a stream of considerable magnitude, and would be easily navigable by the smaller class of river steamboats; vast plains, or prairies, of the richest soil, extend themselves in all directions, and form the most striking peculiarity of the country through which it flows. In summer, these prairies are covered with a luxuriant crop of grass.—Wood, however, so essential an article in so cold a country, is rarely found, excepting on the banks of the river, or sometimes on rising bluffs or hillocks. In all these vast regions, capable of sustaining in abundance a population of millions, the only settlement, properly so called, is that of Red River, and the Indian population is scattered here and there.

This settlement was first projected by the late Earl of Selkirk, about the year 1811, and its first settlers came out from Sutherlandshire, in 1812. During the following years others arrived, but the rivalry then existing between the two great fur companies, subjected them to the greatest hardships, and, for a number of years, threatened to render every attempt to form a settlement vain. The young people who first came out to prepare for the families, were carried off mostly to Canada; and after many families had settled, on one sad day their governor, Mr. Semple, and twenty-one others, were massacred, and the whole of the survivors driven off at the muzzle of the gun. Their habitations were laid waste, and their little crops, then most promising in appearance, were destroyed, or went to waste. The poor colonists sought shelter at Norway house, one of the trading posts on Lake Winnipeg, 300 miles distant from Red River, where they passed a most miserable winter, having almost perished from hunger and cold. They again returned to their former settlement, but trials still awaited them. Next winter, for want of provisions, they had to go out to the plains with the Indians, where they could hunt the buffalo—their poor wives and little children living in lodges made of poles, and covered with snow. The state of almost civil war in which the country had been so long kept by the feuds of the two companies, was at last put an end to by their union, which took place in 1821. But while the hand of man was thus restrained, the hand of Providence still seemed to be against them—clouds of grass-hoppers ravaged their crops for three successive years—the buffalo hunting failed, and often were they reduced to the severest straits, and last of all, to sum up their calamities, but also happily to end them for the time, an inundation extending six miles on either side of the river, swept almost every thing they had before it. Happily, however, only one life was lost. After the waters were assuaged, the Scotch settlers alone returned from the high grounds to which they had fled, sowed their fields, and re-built their houses.—Since that time they have had peace and prosperity. Most of the other settlers had left the country. The government has passed into the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, and seems to be conducted in a mild and upright spirit. All their transactions with the settlers are of the most honorable character, at least, so far as civil and business matters are concerned, and most of the people seem to be contented. There is a