

EXTRACT LETTER FROM REV. J. C. QUIN TO REV. W. GREGG, CLERK OF THE PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON, DATED JAN'Y 12, 1850.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

Being permitted in September last by the Presbytery of Kingston, to proceed on a Missionary tour, I wish to lay before you a brief account of the places which I have visited, and of my labours therein. The first place I visited after leaving your bounds, was Cornwall, where we have had a station since the period of the disruption, but owing to a variety of causes there has not been much progress made; there has been an eligible lot procured, however, and a considerable amount of material is already on the spot for the erection of a stone "House of Worship." The average attendance, I should say, is about eighty; there is likewise a Sabbath-school, but not in a very prosperous condition. Martintown, a Gaelic station I visited during the week, and preached to a considerable number of people, who seemed deeply interested in the services. This station seems to succeed very well, there being to all human appearance some pious and devoted persons in it. During the same week, returning to the St. Lawrence, I preached in Charlottenburg, the township east of Cornwall, and likewise on the Sabbath following, when there were about one hundred persons present. This place, which contains a considerable number of Presbyterians, is in a very destitute condition as regards the means of grace. It is considered as a portion of the charge of a neighbouring minister of the Established Church of Scotland, for whose accommodation there has been a house erected for worship every fourth Sabbath; but this arrangement not being attended to, the people are extremely destitute indeed. Crossing the St. Lawrence to Lower Canada, I came to River La Guerre, when I found that my visit to that place was very providential, as the Presbyterian community was greatly distracted, owing to an individual who had been preaching there for some months, being recommended as an acquaintance and old companion by the Clerk of the Established Presbytery, but who had, when faulty in, and having gained friends among the people, refused to shew any credentials, or declare anything about himself, save that he was "a minister from Scotland." Some of the better informed among the people were not at all satisfied with this, but knew not how to rectify the error into which they had fallen. I announced service for the following day, and after public worship their circumstances became the subject of conversation, when I found that generally the people had no objections to place themselves under the care of our (Montreal) Presbytery, and after sermon a few days afterwards, had a petition adopted to the Presbytery, setting forth that they were about seventy families, had a neat stone building for worship nearly completed, and almost paid for, praying to be received as a station under the Presbytery, and their case and their interests attended to. By this means I showed them, that being received by the Presbytery, none (minister or preacher) had a right to come among them save through the Presbytery, and by this means they were placing themselves in a position of having their wants supplied. I hope the Home Mission Committee of the Montreal Presbytery has been able to give these people some supply of ordinances. It is a most destitute, but at the same time, interesting field of labor, and much good might there, by the blessing of the Most High, be effected. The population is Highland Scotch, but they do not require Gaelic. The individual referred to being thus excluded from our station, and supposing no doubt he could succeed better in the stations and congregations of the Established Kirk, betook himself to labor among them. But exciting surmise, and refusing still to declare who he was, he has of late been denounced by the authority of the Presbytery, in the public papers, as a person unrecognised by them.

Recrossing the St. Lawrence, I returned to Cornwall, and visited Osnabrock, the township west of it, where I learned there was a large body of Presbyterians, but my information was far short of the reality. In 1839 there was a population of 1500 souls returned in the census as professing Presbyterianism; but since that time there has been a considerable falling off, owing to ministerial inefficiency. The population is for the most part descended from Dutch settlers in the States. They have had a Presbyterian ministry among them for nearly sixty years. This was in times past a United Synod congregation, but at present the minister is of the Kirk, and has, so far as I can understand, an attendance of about twenty-five or thirty, from all this vast population. At a meeting which I held the people unanimously petitioned our Presbytery to be received and supplied. I next went to Montreal, and officiated in St. Gabriel Street congregation for four Sabbaths—at the end of which time, by request of the Presbytery, I returned to Cornwall and Osnabrock, which were, at their request, recognised as a joint charge by the Presbytery, and have since continued to give Sabbath services, their visiting the back townships of Finch, Roxboro', and some other desolate localities; sometimes during the week holding four or five meetings as opportunities occur. The attendance at Osnabrock since my return is considerably increased. I should think the average now is about 200, and steps have been taken for the completion of a church in the centre of the township. When completed, it will accommodate about 450 sitters. On the whole this appears an exceedingly interesting field of labour, and I have the pleasure of witnessing among many an increased desire for the ordinances of God's house. As the field is so extensive, and there being no other labourer, I hope it will meet the approval of your Presbytery that I continue my labours within these bounds and under the Montreal Presbytery. I would just beg to say, from what has come under my observation respecting the places I have visited in this Presbytery, which form a small fraction of its vast extent, that we have more persons attached to our church unattended to, and more favorable fields for church-extension within the bounds of this Presbytery, than in any two Presbyteries in Canada. I hope, therefore, it shall, from the proper quarter, receive due attention. And my earnest prayer is, that while we labour, the King of Zion may bless our efforts and render the sword of the Spirit victorious, as we wield it to the dethroning of the enemies of man, and the establishment of the universal empire of Jesus.

To the Editor of the Record.

TOWNSHIP OF GLENEGL,
COUNTY OF WATERLOO,
21st January, 1850.

SIR.—Permit me, through the medium of your monthly Record, to bring under your special notice the state of this comparatively new settlement, with regard to its "spiritual destitution." From the Township of Arthur, as far as the village of Sydenham, Owen Sound, a distance of sixty miles or more, there is no stated ministry in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada; and the greater number of inhabitants residing within the bounds specified above, are Presbyterians. The visits of missionaries from our Church have indeed been "few and far between." And if the reason assigned for such being the case, is, that the settlers do not subscribe liberally to maintain the fund of the "Home Mission," this argument will not stand the test of scrutiny. Is it to be expected that these settlers, many of whom are scarcely able to maintain themselves and families with the bare necessities of life, can contribute liberally to the Home Mission Fund? Certainly not. And if they are to be left uncared for, until they are in circumstances to be enabled to subscribe liberally, it will certainly be an indication on the part of the friends of our Church, of

that cold heartedness and apathy, which is not the distinguishing characteristic of those who are desirous for the spread of the Gospel.

In defining the bounds of liberality, it is certainly right that we should contrast the circumstances of the giver with the amount given, and in doing so, I must say, that the people of this settlement have done what they could, towards the fund for missionary purposes, and there might be even more done by them in this respect, if those who occasionally supply, would accept invitations given them, to spend a week or so with families of unexceptionable character, free of expense, and not remain for two or three months in one house, and preach the greater part of their time in one locality, to the disappointment of many in other parts of the settlement, thus leaving a bill of expenses to be settled for, by those who would otherwise remit that amount to the Home Mission Fund.

Mr Editor, I trust these things will be looked into by the Presbytery, under whose jurisdiction we are placed, and may they feel deeply the truth of that passage of scripture which says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

A. B. McNAB.

MISSION TO THE COLOURED POPULATION

The following letter was intended by the writer for the last Record. It came to hand the day after we went to press. We give it a place now, that the friends of the Mission may be apprized of its state and prospects. From this letter, as well as from private accounts, we learn that the Rev. Mr. King has entered upon his arduous work, with that vigour and zeal which have, all along, characterized his efforts in this cause, so dear to heart:—

To the Editor of the Record.

RALPHON, 24th Jan., 1850.

DEAR SIR,—

It may not be uninteresting to the readers of the Record, and especially those who have felt an interest in the late movement of our Church, with regard to the religious improvement of the colored population in the province, to learn that the mission in their behalf is now in active operation.—The opposition which threatened the undertaking in the first movement, has almost entirely ceased. By a kind Providence our enemies have been restrained, and I have been permitted to commence my labours in peace, and I hope with some prospect of success. The Township of Raleigh, where the mission is situated, lies between Lake Erie on the South, and the River Thames on the North. The parts of the Township on the Lake and River were settled at an early period, but the centre of the Township is still covered with forest, and has but few inhabitants. About sixteen years ago, grants of one hundred acres each were given to actual settlers—these were mostly without means, and many of them ignorant of bush life, have made but little progress. Far removed from society, and with bad roads, they had but few missionaries to visit them; and it is only within the last few years since the roads have been opened up, that attention has been paid to common school education. As might be expected from such a state of things, religion is low, and education very imperfect, little attention has been paid to train the rising generation "in the way they should go." This is common throughout the whole Western District. It is mournful to contemplate the number of youths growing up, to manhood, without scarcely any influence from the truth of God, imparted either by precept or example; still it is to be hoped that a brighter day is about to dawn on the West. There is a growing desire for the Word of God; and a strong feeling in favour of a Christian education. On the