

forth on their labors without a measure of support; and going forth in divine strength to fight the battles of the Lord, he will provide.—“Bread shall be given unto them and their water shall be sure.” And if the excitement, I might almost say, the adventure of the mission, is not so great as in going among the heathen and the savage, yet proportionably great are the attractions, of being surrounded by countrymen and amid the wilds of nature, meeting with familiar faces and being greeted by a familiar tongue.

We would earnestly entreat that every member of the General Assembly would come forward with his public and his private influence, to make a strenuous effort for aiding our cause, by providing the needful funds and inciting preachers to the work. It would be honorable to themselves, and not ungratefully acknowledge by their destitute countrymen; and they would find an anxious and zealous endeavor on the part of our Presbyteries here, to second and render as beneficial as possible their exertions. While to preachers would every where be extended the hand of brotherly kindness, cordiality, encouragement, and assistance. The means for fully carrying this object into effect, necessarily considerable at first, would be rapidly diminished by combining the people of this country in missionary efforts, and in the formation of congregations, for the resources are not so much wanting as the means of calling them forth, and putting them in operation, and each of our Presbyteries might, were they in the field, speedily be enabled to bear the whole charge of supporting two or three missionaries within each of their boundaries.

Mr. Bryce, of Glasgow, gives some admirable hints in a letter published by him in regard to sending missionaries to this country, which you will readily estimate and avail yourselves of. He would obviate the disinclination which preachers have to the idea of leaving their kindred and country for ever, by limiting the period of their missionary labor to three years, during or after which period they might if they found a suitable field and encouragement, and were inclined to adopt this colony as the scene of their labors and their country, they might remain to cultivate and foster the growth of the word in that field, which they had prepared and sown; or having faithfully fulfilled their entrusted and responsible office during the time for which they were engaged, they might return home with honor, and meet with that encouragement and assistance in their future views from the members of the parent church there, which they who have gone forth to work the work of the Lord in distant and rude countries so well deserve. Such ought to be distinguished by testimonies of peculiar regard rather than looked down upon as they often are, as unsuccessful candidates for a field of labor at home. We feel convinced that such a plan would be productive of the happiest consequences both to the interests of religion here, and to the church at home. Remaining here, they would labor in a wide field of

usefulness, and such only would remain as were engaged heart and soul in the work; returning home, they would serve to disseminate just views of our condition and necessities, and be our warmest advocates and best friends; and trained up in the laborious exercise of the practical duties of their office, amid all variety of professions, characters and dispositions, they would be peculiarly well fitted for advancing the spiritual interests of those parishes which might be committed to their charge.—While upon this subject it will be proper to state that the preachers selected for missionary labor should not only possess piety but talents, cultivation of mind, and an engaging propriety of deportment. It is a great mistake to suppose that any sort of person who has zeal and piety, will answer in this new country. It must be remembered that emigrants however much their mode of life may in many or most instances be changed, bring hither along with them, their previous information and previous tastes; and that under the plain garb of the farmer, or within the humble walls of the rude forest log-house, may often be found the vigorous capacity, the enlightened mind, and the cultivated taste; and the minister here perhaps peculiarly requires every suitable qualification to win his way and to insure respect where artificial distinctions of rank and wealth are not often found, and not much valued.

In drawing this report to a close, one thing must especially be mentioned, that although missionaries and missionary funds are what is wanted in the mean time, yet to render permanent the fruits of these, the church at home must give us the vigorous aid of its influence to induce Government to do justice to our cause, by making some permanent and adequate provision for the support of religion in this country. We do not desire that ministers should be altogether freed from a dependance upon the free will offerings of their people; but we do maintain that to keep them respectable and make them useful, free from the temptation to flatter the vanity, and to feed the prejudices of their people—from seeking for filthy lucre and the approbation of men rather than the praise of God—they must to a certain extent be made independent of voluntary contribution for their support; and it belongs to the respectability of the parent church that she should see that those in her own communion and attached to her by every tie, should be protected from the risk of any taint or impurity of merchandise being made of the word and ordinances of God.

One other remark and we conclude. The interests, of general education depend most materially upon the existence of a regular and stated ministry. Education, at present upon a miserably defective system, and consequently at a miserably low ebb in this country, would be greatly benefitted especially among the population of our own connection, by the superintendence of a well educated and influential ministry. While our native country is pouring annually such vast numbers of her people into this colony, can she be in-