

4th May.—A fall of snow ; very cold weather. The winter was uncommonly mild, little sleighing before the 20th of January. The robins, the harbingers of spring, appeared earlier than usual. In the latter end of March a black triangle of wild geese sounded their bugle in the sky, carrying with them to the north the tidings of spring. The first of April was very warm, but the latter end of the month was cold.

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TO THE REV. ROBERT BURNS, PAISLEY.

*May.*

I regret that I did not see you in Glasgow to have a little conversation respecting the field for missions in the British Provinces. It is a truth not to be questioned that the field for missions is wide, and the want of ministers great. By want of ministers, I do not mean that clergymen cannot be obtained to take charge of old congregations able to maintain them ; such congregations seldom want ministers in any country. But we want an increase of active and efficient ministers to meet the intellectual and spiritual wants of our new settlers. We want men to go out in the spirit of the Apostles to gather perishing souls to the Saviour and to build up Christian temples to His service. We want men of freshness of thought and force of character to awaken an interest in the bosom of careless sinners. The country is young and does not hold out alluring prospects to aspiring clergymen. But though we have not the snug conveniences and petty comforts of an old country, we feel no real want. We have all the elements of a solid felicity, and, if we are faithful in the discharge of our duties, we may double our eternal reward and brighten our immortal crown.