

our acknowledgments are due to Almighty God, for the favor and blessing which it has pleased him to grant to the undertaking, and from the success that has already attended our feeble efforts, we feel constrained to say, "not unto us, not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be all the glory, unto thee would we give thanks, and in thy help and guidance would we trust in time to come."

The object of the Mission has been fully explained in former reports, and it is not necessary to advert to it farther on the present occasion, than to remark that, it contemplates only the religious improvement of the colored population in the Province. The Mission has nothing to do with the Elgin Association, with which it is often confounded, nor does it receive any aid from it. The object of the latter is to provide the coloured population with a home, and improve their social condition; with that view about nine thousand acres of land have been purchased and settled with coloured families of approved moral character. They live on farms of fifty acres each, and support themselves by their own industry.— Their houses have been erected at their own expense, and built after a model furnished by the Elgin Association, and set at equal distances from the streets running through the settlement. The association holds annual meetings, on the first Wednesday in September, and publishes a yearly report, giving a detailed account of their proceedings. All the lands belonging to the Association have been taken up and settled with coloured families, besides, many who had means have, during the last two years, purchased improved farms in the neighbourhood, in order to get the benefit of the schools and church. There are about eight hundred souls in the settlement, and this number is increasing both by accessions from the United States, and other parts of the province. During the last two years a number of very respectable families possessed of considerable means have come into the province from the free States, particularly from Indiana and Illinois, driven from the States by the severity of the laws that have lately been passed against them. These persons are very anxious to obtain for their children, the very best education, and with that view have purchased homes, in villages and rural districts, in the western part of the province, near to good schools; but I regret to say, that in many districts of the west there is a strong prejudice existing against them, so much so, that in many places it excludes them from the common schools, so that they are under the necessity of having separate schools for themselves. This prejudice is not confined to the ignorant and irreligious part of the community, but in some cases it is even found among professors of religion, who ought to be actuated by higher and holier motives, than favouring an unjust and cruel prejudice, entertained against a portion of our fellow beings who have been born in bondage, and with a different complexion from our own. We can understand how a man who refuses to acknowledge the authority of the Bible, can deny the equality of races, and endeavour to deprive them of their civil rights and exclude their children from participating in the benefits of a common school education; but we cannot understand, how a professor of religion can consistently withhold from those, who are subjects of the same hopes, and heirs to the same promises with themselves, any of their civil rights or religious privileges.

Many coloured families from this cause desire to have their children placed at a school where no such prejudice exists; but from our limited accommodation for boarders, at present, we are unable to take but few unless those who are actually living in the settlement. But we hope in another year to have this want in a great measure supplied by private families, living in the neighbourhood of the mission school, who are now taking the necessary steps to enlarge their buildings, for the accommodation of boarders.

In our last report we were able to state that the Mission was out of debt, and from the increased liberality of the different congregations, as the objects of the Mission became better known, hoped to enlarge our operations in the educational department.

Accordingly, in January last, we established a female school in connection with the male school with the view of teaching the girls to knit and sew, as well as to read and write, also, to such as could afford it, some of the higher branches of an ornamental education.

We have now two schools in successful operation. A male school under the charge of Mr. Wilson, and a female school under the charge of Miss Tobias. The number of boys on the roll is 70, and the number of girls 20; besides the Mission School there are two others in the settlement, one on the north of us three miles, built, and a teacher supported in it during three months in winter, by the coloured people themselves; another to the west of us, a government school, to which, about 30 scholars from the settlement, go, as it is near them, and they are taxed for its support, and of course send their children to it.— The number attending the different schools in the settlement during the past year is, about 150, and there might be a number more going, but the parents cannot well spare them from the farm.

In January last, we agreed at a public meeting, to charge a small fee for tuition, to all who were able to pay, but those who were unable should have their children as before, educated free, throughout the settlement generally, a spirit has been manifested to do something towards educating their children, and supporting the ordinances of the gospel; and I have no doubt that in due time, they will become self supporting in this respect as well as in temporal matters.

The attendance at the Sabbath School, during the past year, has been very steady, and on the increase. There are about one hundred on the roll. And although there have been no cases observed by either the Superintendent or teachers of decided piety, yet there has been acquired a considerable amount of scriptural knowledge, which we hope, with the blessing of God, will yet bring forth fruit for eternity.

A number of the scholars are committing the Shorter Catechism to memory, and some have already got the whole of it. A proposition was made some time ago to the Sabbath School scholars—but afterwards extended to all the children in the settlement—that on the first day of January next, a Bible would be given to any child that could repeat the Shorter Catechism. There are thirty competitors already, and we expect, before the end of the summer, to have seventy or eighty.

The Church erected last year, and opened by Dr. Burns, is now filled in good weather to its utmost capacity. We will require in another year enlarged accommodation. And as all the buildings are only of a temporary nature, we trust that we shall be enabled soon to erect permanent buildings, both for church and schools. Since our last Report, we have had two Communion seasons—one in July and one in March. On both those occasions ten were added to the Communion roll—four on certificate, and six by examination. Nearly all who enter by examination have been members of my Bible class. There are now forty members on the Communion roll, and about two hundred hearers in full attendance, in good weather. During the past year something has been done by the congregation to support the ordinances of religion. A collection is taken up every Sabbath, besides all the Synodical collections. The result will not be known till the end of the year.

The morality of the settlement continues good. Although all do not attend to the services of the sanctuary on the Lord's day, yet the outward observance of the Sabbath is generally good. The temperance principle is strictly observed.

Nothing that intoxicates is either made or sold in the settlement.

In concluding our Report, we would again return thanks to God for the measure of success that has already attended our efforts, and encouraged by the past, we would look for greater triumphs in future.

Wm Kiso.

THE RECORD.—All possible care is taken in addressing and mailing the Record. Should any irregularity occur in any quarter, in the receipt of the Record, intimation should be sent at once to this office, in order that the irregularity may be remedied.

All communications connected with the Record and the Several Schemes of the Church, to be addressed to "REV. W. RIND, OFFICE OF THE MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD," Toronto.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for the Record should be in the Editor's hands by the 15th of the month.

The Record.

TORONTO, JULY, 1855.

COLLECTION IN AID OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

By appointment of Synod, the Collection in aid of this most interesting and important Society, will be taken up on the third Sabbath of the present month. The work in which this Society is engaged, is a very great work. It has been well begun. God's tokens of approbation have not been withheld. Seed is being sown among the French Canadians which may, and we trust will, bring forth abundant fruit. Let us hold up the hands of those who are laboring in this field, both by our contributions and prayers. In so doing we shall be acting the part of true patriots, of genuine philanthropists, and of consistent followers of our Lord and Saviour.

We earnestly trust that the Collection will be universally attended to, and promptly remitted.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MONEYS.—In consequence of the pressure of Synod business, we have been unable to prepare for publication, in this number, the usual statement of moneys received during the month. These shall be duly acknowledged in our next number.

We take this opportunity of requesting all who have money to remit, to procure, if possible, a post-office order, or where this cannot be done, to have their letters registered. Parties wishing a written receipt, shall have one by return of mail. Particular attention is requested to this notice.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.—These will appear in our next number. All who have not sent in these returns, are earnestly requested to do so immediately. Parties requiring blank schedules, may obtain them by writing to this office.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—The account of the Treasurer of the Home Mission Fund of this Presbytery, will appear in our next.