

to relieve the Committee of the *onus* of maintaining Gospel ordinances among them. These sums, together with the whole amount of the several collections which I received at the other stations at which I officiated, amounting in all to £70, 18s. 3d. sterling, will be transmitted to you by W. Gordon, Esq., our treasurer, save nearly £2 which was raised the first day—being a week day—I preached at one of these stations, when the people said afterwards that, rather than that I should refund that sum to the Committee, they would again raise it, which they have accordingly done. Remuneration has likewise been or will be transmitted for services which I rendered in other congregations within the county before the arrival of the other missionaries. It was not thought advisable to receive or rather exact any remuneration for services that had been given beyond the county, nor for 8 Sabbath-days during which I officiated on different sacramental occasions. Of the several sums raised I have kept an exact account, which I now remit to you; for, on entering the mission-field, I informed the people of the position in which I stood with the Committee, and that, although the Committee secured a certain sum to me, over and above what they might be pleased to give of their free-will offerings, yet that I would rest satisfied with the Committee's allowance, should they subscribe liberally, and relieve the Committee of the *onus* of paying for my services among them. And in showing them the propriety as well as duty of maintaining the Gospel, at least among themselves, they most cordially assented, and raised collections throughout the various districts, of which the result is the most satisfactory attestation. And surely all this must afford strong testimony in favour of our people, that they are alive to their duty, and that they feel deeply grateful to the Church for her exertions in endeavouring to meet their spiritual destitution. Ought it not, moreover, to prove a further stimulus to our Church to exercise additional zeal (if possible) to meet the many pressing calls that are yet made and unprovided-for? And, doubtless, the devotedness and zeal of this congregation must appear in much stronger light when it is known that during the long period of about 40 years they had no regularly settled clergymen of our Church more than three-fourths of that time, and in one section they never had a settled minister, and in other two sections they only had one for 3 or 4 years; while during a considerable portion of this time every possible exertion had been used to alienate their minds and disappoint their fondest hopes.

During the past year 2 of the churches within the congregation have been undergoing repair, and are now in the course of completion. Nothing had been done to them within the previous 10 or 11 years. In a third section of the congregation, Cape John, their church was unfortunately burnt down 3 or 4 years ago. Last summer they raised the frame of a new church, and they are now actively engaged preparing materials for its completion in the early part of next summer. In the other section of the congregation the church has been held in dispute since 1844, somewhat similar to that of our *quoad sacra* churches at Home; it is consequently still in rather an inefficient state. It is hoped, however, that the people there, who are very zealous and spirited, will soon render it more comfortable and efficient. The labour and fatigue sustained in this wide field is necessarily very arduous; and, were it not that the attachment and devotedness of the people, and the sad thought of leaving them uncared-for, stimulate to renewed exertion, I would have shrunk from the onerous duties some time ago. In this wide field there is ample room for 2 settled clergymen; and it is utterly impossible for me to take the charge or oversight of them with any degree of satisfaction to myself, or with much profit to them. And, had they another clergyman in prospect, they might well maintain 2. Indeed one of these sections might with a little effort support a minister wholly among themselves.

I also transmit with this a draft of £7 sterling, which has been raised in this congregation, for the benefit of the Indian Mission. It is intended

to aid the young people attending our Assembly schools, who were made willing to forsake parents and friends for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. We hope that this is only an earnest of what will yet be done here for this and similar objects. When attending the University at Home, I, in common with others, took considerable interest in the young converts attending the Madras school, who appeared to us to have a pressing and immediate claim on our sympathies. This small sum is now placed at your disposal to have it transmitted to the converts there or at whatever station aid is most required; and we doubt not but that it is accompanied with the prayers of not a few of the children of God, and we hope therefore that it will prove useful in enabling some of them to acquire a more extensive and comprehensive knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus, so that they may in due time be thus prepared to go forth to commend these truths to their brethren, their kinsmen according to the flesh, with somewhat of that zeal and anxiety which was manifested by the great apostle.

I am just now in receipt of a further practical proof of the spirit and activity of this congregation, which I feel bound gratefully to acknowledge. As a new year's gift, two of the sections (Rogershill proper, and Cape John) have presented me with a handsome and serviceable sleigh with furs, &c. Such demonstration of attachment is worthy of being recorded far and wide, as it may help to convince the licentiates of our Church, who are, time after time, pressed to come over to our aid, that they are not required to labour among a heartless people who are not desirous of sharing their comforts with him who breaks to them the bread of life. In addition to this sums have been raised among us to support the young men who have gone from this country, and are now in our colleges in Scotland and Canada with the view of studying for the ministry.

Before I close, I must beg to bring the claims of the congregation before the special notice of the Committee. And, if I do not mention other destitute stations which are loudly crying for help, it is that I may more effectually direct attention to this much neglected congregation. The congregation of Belfast, P. E. Island, has been repeatedly brought under the consideration of the Committee by Messrs M'Nair, Snodgrass, and others; but I feel certain, could I plant 3 or 4 of the members of that Committee, whom I could mention, for as many hours within the precincts of that congregation, they would with renewed vigour use every laudable and just measure to secure the services of some devoted labourer for that important charge. I do not know a more needful, pressing, or interesting charge than this. It embraces a large congregation, and one church, situated (I think) in the centre. They have been several years wanting a clergyman, and they had not the benefit of occasional services, as the Pictou congregation had during the years of desertion through the extensive labours of the Rev. Mr. M'Gilvray. There is only one clergyman of the Church in the whole island, and he does not preach in the Gaelic language. These people are therefore, year after year, without one day's service during the long winter months. And just let any one, who feels an interest in a devoted adherent of our Church, picture to himself not only months but years passing over their heads without any ministrations,—let any licentiate or settled minister consider the condition of this body of people with only one or two Sabbath-days' services at most during a whole year, and I am sure he must have a heart harder than any Gospel minister can have, if he does not feel for them. I never felt so much for any people as for them, when, last summer, Messrs. M'Gilvray, Snodgrass, and myself, administered the sacrament there. All were employing every available argument to press their claims; and some hoary-headed men solicited our sympathy with tears, accompanied with the sad reflection: "We shall soon go, but what will become of our families? We have waited so many years for a minister of our Church, and there is now as little prospect of our being provided for as ever." Let those of

our parish ministers, who would feel uneasy at the thought of having their pulpits inefficiently supplied for one or two Sabbaths, endeavour to conceive how melancholy it would be to have them unoccupied for several years. Let them further imagine their parishes bordering on settlements of Papists, and then they will have some idea of the situation and condition of Belfast. And will it any longer have to be said that the Papists' settlements never want the services of priests, and that the cries and tears of the ardent adherents of our Church are unheeded. I do earnestly and anxiously hope that another summer shall not transpire without bringing one to this people. And let me with all deference, mingled with all possible urgency, suggest that, if no licentiate can be procured immediately to take the permanent charge of this congregation, the services of some experienced and tried parish minister be secured to settle among them for 3 or 4 months, to encourage, strengthen, and sustain their drooping spirits, as well as to edify and fully organize them for a more permanent settlement.

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY OF ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, BY REV. JOHN ROSS, ANENT CONGREGATIONS AT ST. ANDREWS AND ST. PATRICK, dated St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 15th November, 1853.

The presbytery very properly require a general account of the condition of the congregations applying for aid from the Colonial Committee of the parent Church, and the duties performed to them during the year. I therefore submit that I have been enabled to perform regularly to both the congregations at St. Andrews and St. Patrick the usual services with the administration of Word and sacraments.

Although our congregation in the town of St. Andrews is much diminished compared with the first five years of my ministry in this place, by causes which are well known and need not to be specified here, it still comprises no inconsiderable portion of our Protestant population; and the members of it have done more, perhaps, than any other in our parish for the support of Gospel ordinances. For the current year they have agreed to pay for ministerial services £100, while other incidental expenses connected with the building and worship may require about £50 additional. They live in peace and good feeling, and very regularly attend social worship, conducted by the members of session, when I am necessarily absent in the parish of St. Patrick. Small additions have been made to the communion and congregation, but not sufficient to balance the decrease by emigration and death, which during the past year has been considerable. In St. Andrews the article of money has been more in circulation; labour of every kind is very high—threefold what it was 3 years ago—but the immediate effect is to raise the price of food, fuel, rent, &c., from 50 to 75 per cent.

The district of St. Patrick, in which our church is situate, and the settlements from 5 to 10 miles round, have been the objects of more care and labour last year than formerly, because a more earnest desire appeared to prevail for the bread and water of life. A Sabbath school—the first ever attempted in our church there—was opened on Sabbath, 1st May. When I urged the necessity of it in March, while visiting in that neighbourhood, little success was anticipated, because the greater part of our people lived at such distances from the church as to prevent the children's attendance. The differences of religious opinions among those who were near and the want of efficient teachers, &c., had