

leadings of the Divine Providence in conducting Mr. Thornton to a locality through which the others had passed, but discovered nothing at that time to arrest their progress westward. In opposition to personal predilections, and regardless of other solicitations, a peculiar train of circumstances stationed him eighty miles east of Mr. Christie; and here again on the one hand, first, as far east as Port Hope, and then west to Toronto and northward, has our Church, by this agency, been established in an almost unbroken line of closely connecting links, over nearly seventy miles. While Mr. Murray, who arrived shortly after, not only formed a connection between the fields of the two older Missionaries, (both having been connected with his first station,) but also laid the foundations of churches, now among the ablest and most promising in the Flamboro' and Brant Presbyteries.

In the winter of 1833, when the first two ministers had only been about eighteen months and the other two from five to six in the country, they all met at the house of Mr. Christie for mutual consultation. It was a deeply interesting occasion—it was the *first time* that they had all seen each other, and had a fair opportunity to understand accurately the condition of their respective fields, and the amount of success with which their feeble and widely extended labors had been crowned. Even at that early period, each minister, it was found, not only occupied a most extensive and promising field of labor, but that the regularly constituted churches already amounted to about eight or ten, besides promising stations. It was found that instead of *one*, each locality demanded the labors of *several* missionaries, to meet the necessities of the case. An application was then addressed, through the Mission Board in Scotland, to the Synod, to constitute the Brethren into a Presbytery, accompanied with an earnest appeal for ministerial aid. This application was granted, the Synod, at its meeting in April 1834, constituting the Presbytery under the name and designation of the “Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas, in connection with the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland.”

Before the Presbytery could hold its first meeting the Mission was re-inforced by the Rev. James Skinner and the Rev. John Cassie. Many places being now most urgent for a regular ministerial supply, these two brethren were speedily settled, without going over nearly all the fields already brought under some degree of ministerial oversight. The former was settled in Southwold and the latter in Port Hope.

THIETA.

---

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN CANADA.—No. II.

---

In reference to the question of Religious Instruction in Common Schools, the friends of religion themselves are divided into two distinct parties. The one maintaining that, in order that a system of public instruction may be either serviceable or desirable, it must be distinctly under ecclesiastical control—or, at least, that the regular performance of some religious