

They have made, upon the whole, a very fair beginning : and though much labour and many difficulties doubtless lie before them, yet, with the good hand of God upon them, we may, in no long time look for the establishment of a vigorous and able congregation in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church in the city of Ottawa.

Before I close this communication, indulge me in a few remarks. It seems to me that this narrative indicates something like the true method of Church Extension in our cities. In almost all our cities there are needy localities, at a distance from any of our places of worship, where there are scattered families of members of our Church who might be drawn together, and compacted into a congregation, by some such movement as this in Ottawa. These families may be too few in number, and not sufficiently wealthy and influential to constitute a congregation, and maintain all the burden of such a position. The ordinary method of sending a missionary among them, and setting him to labour to establish a cause—as the phrase is,—sustaining him meanwhile by benevolent contributions from without, has always appeared to me both inefficient and ungenerous. It is inefficient,—for are not these localities like the outposts of the church ; and if they are to be maintained, there must be not only one good labourer, but also a band of chosen men ready and able to second him, to keep in vigorous action all the instrumentalities of evangelistic effort—prayer meetings, and Sabbath Schools, and all the machinery of a well-ordered presbyterian congregation. It is ungenerous—for it is not a hard measure to our brethren, scattered in these places, to leave them, with inadequate numbers and means, to labour and struggle year after year to attain the same measure of comfort which we ourselves enjoy. It seems to be imagined that, if, after a struggle of half a dozen years, a congregation is barely established in such a locality, some great thing has been done. Whereas, from the first it should, and might have been in a position as good, or better, had there been, let us suppose, a small band of chosen men, able to furnish office-bearers, and teachers in the Sabbath School, from one or several of our large congregations, who would not feel their loss, found willing to form the nucleus to such a movement.

Sometimes, indeed, dispeace and division result in the formation of a new congregation, such as we have described. But surely in any such enterprise we should not wait for division. A spirit of bitterness, or of unseemly rivalry, are blemishes in any Christian work. We present a spectacle more pleasing to God, and more impressive to men, when, in cordial brotherly feeling, we bid God speed to friends and companions who willingly give themselves to such a work, as in the case before us. No doubt there are difficulties in the way of carrying out an enterprise in such a spirit as this. It seems almost too much to ask, in our present standard of christian attainment. And yet one can hardly conceive of a more inviting sphere of labour for an earnest, large-hearted, christian man. It may be hard to leave a pastor whom we regard with esteem and affection, and try all the discomforts of an unsettled lot. It may be hard to find time for all the extra labour needful in helping on the new work, while beset with the claims of an extensive business. And yet is it, after all, too much to look for from christian men ? Is it too much that they should thus deny themselves finally, or at least for a time, to help forward the work of the gospel ? Our own cause is the cause of all mankind, as the self-sacrificing life of our blessed Lord stands ever teaching us. And shall christian men not feel the considerations derived from that life, and seek to walk in His steps of loving self-denial ? This is no scheme to filch away the wealth or comfort of any man. It merely indicates the open door into larger blessing, it shows the path to a clearer atmosphere, and to a higher and nobler grade of christian life. The Lord will be a debtor to no man. No one can