

or among thorns ; but much will find root, "and bring forth fruit to the praise and glory of God."

The Committee have occasionally been met with the objections, that it is impolitic to interfere with the religion of the French Canadians ; and that the attempt to change their belief is chimerical. We cannot have sympathy either with the policy, or with the Christianity that would leave men undisturbed in the profession of falsehood, or unenlightened respecting what most deeply interests them as men and as immortal beings. What is wrong in principle, it cannot be wise policy to pursue ; and a fatal issue would soon demonstrate the folly of human expedients, when opposed to the counsels of heaven. But without discussing the question, the Committee would give but one answer as to the impolicy of the mission, and it is—that as "ministers of the word of life," we are bound, by the most sacred obligations, "to preach the gospel to every creature," and to watch over and care for the spiritual interests of those whose hearts the word we preach has pierced with conviction, and who have put themselves under our spiritual superintendence and care. With respect to the second objection, *that the scheme is chimerical and hopeless*, it must be admitted that as men, contemplating the dark mass of surrounding superstition and ignorance, and the prejudices behind which error is entrenched, and depending on human agency alone, the conclusion is natural and just. But such objections have continually been made by the godless to every effort that has been made to reclaim the waste places of the earth, and make them as "a garden which the Lord hath blessed, planted with the trees of righteousness." They are the objections of those who know not the value of an immortal soul—of those in whose cold hearts there is not a spark of Christian affection—of those who either distrust or deny the sovereign power and grace of God. They who contemplate the subject with Christian faith—who recal to mind the promises of God—and who rely upon his grace, find no room for despondency or fear. The field of labour, it is true, is a moral waste of frightful extent ; and the individual efforts of the Synod may be compared to that of a single woodsman in clearing our