

the public worship of God. It is now two full years since I first pressed upon some of those in Arthur the obligation and necessity of exertion in this matter. They at once seemed to express satisfaction at the idea of receiving ordinances, and talked as if they would immediately set about doing something; but all has evaporated in talk, at least nothing has been done. And although I understood from Mr. Macintosh, that the way was prepared for making collections at every place where we were to preach; yet we always met with some excuse for its not being done.—So we mis-understand—some idea that it was a subscription and not a collection that had been recommended, except in one place, where a collection was attempted, and if the sum contributed be any indication of the state of feeling, it only confirms the truth of my surmises.

In order, however, to give a correct idea of the spiritual wants of the Owen's Sound Settlements, and the prospect of maintaining Gospel ordinances there, it may be of importance to state that these settlements, commenced only four years ago, extend along a line of road running nearly South from Sydenham till it passes the forty mile swamp, and then turning South-east, or nearly so, as far as the village of Arthur, fifty or sixty miles, and along the St. Vincent and Lake Shore roads, from Sydenham several miles in a North-easterly direction. The whole territory comprises the Northern Division, extending from the Sound to a little beyond the larger branch of the Saugein, or containing the six townships of Derby, Sydenham, Silt van, Holland, Beatrice, and Glenelg; and the Southern Division extending from the boundary of the other, to the village of Arthur, or comprising the four townships of Normanby, Eremont, Minto, and Arthur. The former Division, I ascertained from the agent, contains a population of 1350 souls, of which 1005, or more than one half, are Presbyterians. I have not learned exactly what is the population of the latter: it was upwards of 1100 last year, and it is probably now between 1300 and 1500; but I imagine that the Presbyterians there will scarcely amount to one half, there being a great many Irish Roman Catholics, as well as Methodists, &c. The line is settled almost the whole way from the one end to the other, except where the ground is swampy, or otherwise ineligible, or in the case of a few lots which remain as Reserves. There being, however, yet few or no settlers back from the road, a long space contains but a comparatively small number of inhabitants, though the aggregate population of the whole is considerable. Indeed, even in the neighborhood of Sydenham itself, the settlers are but few; its own population does not probably yet exceed twenty families, and only five of these are Presbyterians: while three miles square are reserved for House and Park Lots, of which very little is yet cleared. This, along with the circumstances formerly stated, may in some measure account for a smaller attendance at divine service, in any one place, than might be expected by those who had merely heard the gross amount of the population; and shows that while the wants are great in proportion to the actual numbers, the practicability of supplying them by the settlers themselves, is in the mean time much diminished, or in other words, the destitution is rendered still greater by the manner in which they are located. I would beg leave also, to remark, that in the Northern Division, probably much more than one half of the Presbyterian population speak Gaelic, and most of those know little English, many almost none; while all have a preference for and understand their native language better. And here, with all my former suspicion that ignorance of English was often affected by our Highland brethren in this country, I desire to bear testimony to it as a fact, that to most of the Highlanders in the Owen's Sound Settlements, a minister who could speak English only, would be of little benefit. I met many with whom I could hold no more communication than with the majority of the Indian tribes: and in answer to my inquiry, if they could speak English? received only an awkwardly pronounced "not much." The Highlanders have generally settled in clusters along the line, which would increase the difficulty of supplying the settlers with ordinances. And in commencing the work, a missionary or an ordained minister, capable of speaking both English and Gaelic, would require to have several stations to visit in rotation; which, as the back concessions in the neighborhood became

and the people improve in circumstances settled, might form distinct congregations. And I may add, that so strongly does the tide of immigration set in in this direction, that the agent expressed to us his confidence, that if the present liberal mode of granting land be continued by Government, the population will double in twelve months. The quality of the soil, too, and the situation of the place, affording facilities for communication with the principal markets, are well known and allowed to hold out the prospect of its becoming in a short time a very important portion of the country.

If we were to point out the manner in which it seems the work of supplying the spiritual destitution of this district ought to be begun, we would say that there should be a preaching station for English at Sydenham, as the central place of interest; and another, towards the South end of the Northern Division with a station for Gaelic on the Lake Shore road, twelve miles beyond the village of Sydenham, another on what is called the tenth line of the township of the same name, four or five miles on this side of the village; and a third about twenty or twenty-five miles below it—that is, in all, *five* preaching stations in the Northern Division. And in the Southern Division, there would require to be a Gaelic station in the upper part of the township of Arthur, and an English one in the lower part; with another English one above Maitland. This would form an interesting mission field, but is too much for one person to undertake as Pastor. The duties would be arduous, and there would be a great deal of travelling. Even in sleighing the road is rough, and at other times, I understand that a great part of it is scarcely passable. There is, however, an immense prospect of improvement in this respect, £1000 having been voted by Government to be expended on this line (which) it is expected will be applied to the intended object in the ensuing summer. And thus the communication being facilitated, and the settlers generally getting over their early difficulties, we trust that if we can only stir them up to exertion before they become entirely careless, or supply the wants of such of our people as are at all concerned about the matter, ere they be drawn away by other bodies,—our church will, at no distant period, have flourishing congregations and stated ordinances, with perhaps a Presbytery of her own, in this District; and what is of more consequence, professing Christians entering upon the occupation of those lands, will take possession of them in the name of the King of Heaven—plant in a hitherto vacant soil vital christianity, which will maintain and propagate itself through successive generations—and extending the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, hasten the glorious period when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters covers the sea.

G. SMELLIE.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF KNOX'S CHURCH, HAMILTON.

1. That the designation of the Association be "The Ladies' Association of Knox's Church, Hamilton."
2. That the Minister of Knox's Church be President of the Association.
3. That each Member contribute 5s. on admission, and 2s. 6d. annually thereafter, to the funds of the Association.
4. That contributions of articles of Plain and Fancy work be received from the Members of the Association, and others disposed to aid in the objects thereof; and that these be sent to the Depository and sold for the benefit of the funds, under the direction of the Association.
5. That the Association meet on the first Wednesday of each Month.
6. That the Depository present at each Monthly Meeting a list of the articles of work deposited with her, together with the names of those by whom they have been contributed.
7. That the Visitors and the Teachers of the Bible Classes give Monthly reports respecting their several departments of duty.
8. That Contribution Cards be furnished to the Members of the Association, for marking donations to the funds of the Association.
9. That the Association will seek to promote the following objects, viz:—1. The aiding of the Home Mission Fund of the Presbytery of Ha-

milton. 2. The visitation of families and individuals in affliction, especially when such services may be desired by the Session. 3. The establishment and superintendence of Classes for the religious instruction of young women.

This Association originated in the suggestion of the Session of Knox's Church, Hamilton, at a Meeting of which, held on the 6th December, 1845, the following resolution was adopted.—"The Session had under consideration the opportunities and means of usefulness possessed by Christian females in every community, and after deliberation, resolved to recommend that the females of this congregation do associate themselves for such objects of Christian benevolence as may appear to them most proper, as well as for prayer and Christian conference; and request the Moderator to communicate this recommendation from the pulpit, and appoint such time for meeting with them as he may find convenient."

In accordance with the above recommendation, a few of the Ladies of that congregation met on the 26th December, 1845, and agreed to form themselves into an Association, to be called "The Ladies' Association of Knox's Church, Hamilton."—Office-bearers were then appointed, the Rev. Mr. GALE, President; Mrs. CARROLL, Secretary; and Mrs. GALE, Treasurer and Depository; and a list of Members was opened, with the names of the Ladies present, seven in number, and which has since increased to thirty-three.

The object which appeared to the Members to have the strongest claim on their Christian exertions was the Home Mission of the Presbytery of Hamilton, and it was resolved that this should be the first and primary object of the Association continued with two others—the visitation of families or individuals in affliction, and the establishment and superintendence of Classes, for the religious instruction of young women.

The first of these objects, whether the extent of the field, or its destitution be considered, is well calculated to stimulate Christians to greater zeal, self-denial, and liberality than has yet been manifested amongst us. The Presbytery of Hamilton comprises within its bounds no fewer than eight Districts, the Gore, Niagara, Wellington, Brock, Talbot, London, Western and Huron; and a surface nearly as large as Scotland—a wide field, indeed, of which it may be truly said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." In every part of this extensive region there are localities where extreme religious destitution still exists, and from which the Macedonian cry is often heard, "Come over and help us." On the North-westerly side, beyond Fergus, we have the rapidly increasing settlements on the Owen Sound Road, extending about 60 miles in length,—here there is a large Presbyterian population, but no Minister. The Settlers on the Grand River are almost equally destitute, there being no Presbyterian Minister on the whole line of its course for 40 miles upwards from its mouth. In the whole District of Talbot there is no Presbyterian Minister, and only two in the great Huron tract, which contains 18 Townships.—and various localities besides, not less necessitous, although less extensive and populous, than those specified. In addition to all this it ought to be stated that such important stations as Guelph, London, Williams, Woodstock, Eckford, and Aldboro', are without Ministers; although earnestly desirous to obtain faithful Pastors, and able and willing to support them. The foregoing statements will afford some idea of the extent and destitution of the Home Mission field of the Presbytery of Hamilton, and the more fully the subject is considered, the more strongly will Christians feel the obligation resting upon them to put forth their energies towards its mitigation. Surely while themselves enjoying the unspeakable privilege of a regular dispensation of word and ordinances, they will not feel indifferent to the spiritual necessities of thousands around them, who in the providence of God are not equally favoured. Indeed it will generally be found that just in proportion as Christians prize their own advantages they will cheerfully devote their time and means, and energies, towards placing within the reach of their destitute brethren the means of Grace. Much may be accomplished by *little*s. He who applauded the widow's mite and declared it to be of more value than all the magnificent sums cast into the treasury, still