

+ and very imperfectly known.
A congregation in communion with the Church of Scotland
was formed soon after the conquest.
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of their means, they have been unable to supply themselves with regularly ordained pastors.

Such is a hurried sketch in reference to the population of Lower Canada generally. I now solicit your attention for a little to the proportion of that population who adhere to the discipline and worship of the Established Church of Scotland,—to the manner in which they have been treated by the Home Government,—and to the kind of provision made for those who labour among them in holy things.

As to the amount of the numbers of those who may be reckoned in communion with the Established Church of Scotland, it may be estimated, I think, at not less than 30,000. What the number of the population might have been in 1822, when I first went to reside in the country, I cannot say; but this much I do know, that, at that period, there were only two congregations in the whole of the Lower Province in communion with the Established Church of Scotland, one of these in Quebec, and the other in Montreal. I remember well at the Communion seasons in these two cities, that many of our countrymen, and particularly those who had emigrated from the Highlands of Scotland, travelled from a considerable distance to be present on these interesting occasions; and never shall I forget the feelings engendered when addressing those lowly and humble Christians, several of whom understood but imperfectly the language in which they were addressed. Such devotedness to the simple ceremonies of their National Church could not but touch the hearts of the few ministers then in the country, and make them bewail the state of utter destitution as to spiritual provision to which thousands were reduced, who had perhaps enjoyed the privilege of attendance on ordinances in their native land. This feeling induced them to make regular missionary tours into those parts of the country where Presbyterians had settled; and they have the satisfaction to think, that their labours were, to a certain extent, blessed; that some born in the country, and living far from God, and far from holiness, were brought to think seriously of the one thing needful, and that many, whose piety was fast languishing, from non-attendance on ordinances, were, in some measure, quickened and roused to active exertion.

Shortly after the period to which I allude, the Glasgow Colonial Society, under the patronage of that truly excellent nobleman and friend of our Church, Lord Dalhousie, was formed; and from the exertions of that society, the best effects have followed. Many members of the Church of Scotland, both lay and clerical, have taken a lively interest in the welfare of this society; and I am happy at having this opportunity of stating, that the zeal and activity of its secretary, the Rev.

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