

POETRY.

LINES ON THE REVIVAL, ENLARGEMENT, AND GLORY OF THE CHURCH.

BY MARIA DENOON YOUNG,

Authoress of "Reflections on Prayer and the Work of the Lord."

The star of the morning hath beamed from on high,
And burst through the gloom that enshrouded the sky—
The shadows of night at his rising are fled—
The spirit of promise breathes life from the dead.

We hail the glad tidings, celestial in birth,
The dawn of the morning hath gleamed on the earth;
The sun in his beauty and brightness shall rise,
And the noon-tide of day shall illumine the skies.

In sadness we pined 'mid the gloom of the night,
And long did we look for the dawning of light—
We prayed, and we sorrowed, and breathed forth our sighs,
Yet hoped that the day spring at length would arise.

O Zion, thy glory long shrouded in gloom
Was dark as the death-shade that rests on the tomb;
And feeble and fitful the rays that were given
To guide to the rest and the brightness of heaven.

Arise from the dust; lo, Jehovah appears,
Thy maker, thy husband, to scatter thy fears;
In the garments of light and of beauty arrayed,
In the strength of his love, he comes forth to thine aid.

Thy seed, like the stars that bespangle the skies,
Shall seek to Jehovah, with weeping and sighs;
On him whom they pierced, they in anguish shall gaze,
Till mourning be changed to the shoutings of praise.

Thy children, O Zion, are taught of the Lord,
And great is the peace which his mercies afford;
Though sore was thy conflict, and deep were thy scars,
Thou'rt clothed with a sunbeam, and crowned with the stars.

Jehovah, thy grace and thy glory display;
Thy priests with the robes of salvation array—
With righteousness clothe them, with glory benign,
And guide by the cloud and the pillar divine.

Oh, look in thy mercy, enlighten, redeem;
Thy glory extend, as the life-giving stream,
Till it cover the earth, and arise to the throne,
And Jesus a boundless eternity own.

Thy sword, O Most mighty, now gird on thy thigh,
Ride forth in thy glory, salvation is nigh;
Thine enemies slay by the breath of thy mouth,
And triumph because of thy mercy and truth.

Great God, we adore thee; from race unto race—
Thy Zion shall boast in thy triumphs of grace,
Till, robed in the garments of beauty and light,
She shine as a gem in thy diadem bright.

Christian Herald.

Missionary Intelligence.

COLONIAL CHURCHES.

LOWER CANADA.

The following letter gives a very melancholy account of the religious condition of our countrymen settled in what are called the "Eastern Townships." Even without the aid of the map, to which Dr. Mathieson refers, as sent along with his letter, our readers will be able to follow his description of the country; so far, at least, as to comprehend the importance of these districts, and their deplorable destitution of the means of grace. They furnish a strong and urgent case for the interference of Government; both out of a regard to the religious good of these poor people, and out of a sense of the danger arising from their being exposed to influences which tend to render them hostile or disaffected, or at least indifferent, to British rule and British institutions.—Meantime, something may be done, and is done, by the Committee at home, and the Canadian Church, for their benefit:—

LETTER

From Dr. MATHIESON to Principal MACFARLAN.

Montreal, 26th November, 1839.

VERY REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

Although the Commission of the General Assembly had appropriated £200 per annum, for three years, towards the support of two missionaries in the eastern townships, Lower Canada, I had not heard that they had appointed any one to that important field of labour; and feeling the necessity of taking some decided steps to have one or two ministers of our Church settled in that part of the country, I was induced, about three months ago, alongst with the Rev. Mr. Pindlater of this city, to take a missionary tour, with a view to ascertain the number and the religious condition of our countrymen settled there.

The result has confirmed the many painful statements I had previously heard, respecting their condition as to religious ordinances, which may be briefly stated in the description given me some years ago:—"In the townships, we have every Christian sect and denomination that you will find under the sun, and, I believe, many which you will find no where else, but we have little or no Christianity." I will not vouch that it prevails to the extent there stated; but certainly diversity of opinion on religious matters forms one of the most striking features in the state of society, and principally arises from the perambulatory habits of the apostles of the different creeds.—Nor is it here unattended with its disastrous consequences. These religious teachers have hitherto been chiefly from the United States; some of them very questionable characters! and several of them have been paid by Societies in the States; and I have been told, and I believe it, that they are much more zealous in disseminating their political dogmas than the doctrines of Christianity. A most intelligent person, who had long resided in the townships, informed us, that he believed it would have been much better with the people in his immediate neighbourhood, if they had been left entirely to themselves, although they had no want of what is called religious instruction. He had seen, in such rapid succession, various sectarians occupy the "free church," (a church built for all denominations,) that for some weeks they had not only on the Sabbath religious services, but every day of the week, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Universalists, Socinians, &c. took the pulpit by turns,—many of the same people listening to them all. The consequences have been, divisions and strifes among the people,—too often an utter contempt for religion, as well as for those who pretended to teach it. This I can well believe, from the opprobrious names that were applied to these itinerants,—such as peddling preachers, saddle bag parsons, journeymen soul-savers,—and the deplorable immorality that prevails.—To this dark picture there is little relief, except where the late excellent Bishop Stewart, with truly patriotic zeal, established a few missionaries of the Church of England, or the Wesleyans have one or two stations.

The schools, too, are principally taught by young females from the United States; and, although we may not suppose they are zealous apostles of democracy, many of the books that are used in school are printed in the States, and not a few of them, I have been informed, contrast American and British institutions, always to the disparagement of the latter.—These circumstances, of which I can hardly believe the Government can be wholly ignorant, ought surely to convince them of the wise policy of introducing a good system of elementary education, and of contributing to the support of ministers of the Established Churches, whose loyalty they could trust, and whose qualifications they could depend upon being at least respectable. There cannot be a doubt but this would prove ultimately the most economical, as well as the most efficient, system of government. If only half the sum had been expended in educating the people, that has been spent in putting down rebellion,—or were sums, equal to those now granted to stipendiary magistrates, granted for religious and intellectual education, and judiciously applied,—the Canadas would present very different aspects from what they now do. It must, however, be said in favour of the inhabitants of the townships, that they were generally loyal. During the late disturbances, the number of Upper Canada loyalists, who have settled in that part of the country, together with a very considerable sprinkling of "old countrymen," completely kept under the expression of "sympathizing feelings" on the part of the disaffected.

Alongst with this, I send you a small map, that you may be the better able to comprehend the relative positions of the townships to Montreal, and the immense extent of territory over which several thousands of our countrymen are riddled. I believe you are aware that the seigneuries extend on both sides of the St. Lawrence, without intermission, from the Gulf to the division line of the Upper Province, and backwards from the river, an average, perhaps, of 18 miles. The townships are the lands lying in rear of the seigneuries; and that portion of them to which the Assembly's grant was bestowed, for the support of two missionaries, lies to the south-east of the river Richelieu. A township is a subdivision of a country, corresponding to parish. On the triangular part, to the west of the Richelieu, chiefly settled by Scotchmen, or such as are of French origin, six ministers of our Church are already stationed; and in several other places, the inhabitants are anxious to have each a minister in communion with the Established Church. But in that large tract of country to the east, our countrymen have been left completely destitute. To form some idea of its extent, taking Montreal as a starting point, and running a line due south, may be about 50 miles; from that point east

along the province line to the Kennebec road, upwards of 200; the Kennebec road, from the state of Maine to Quebec, about 120; and from that again to Montreal, 190 miles. Within this tract, it has been estimated there may be from 12,000 to 15,000 Presbyterians, a number that, in all probability, will be largely increased within a few years by emigration. The country is well watered by lakes, rivers, and brooks; is in general exceedingly fertile, and beautifully diversified by hill and dale. In many respects, it presents superior advantages to the settler to any part of the Upper Province I have seen. But, with respect to the means of religious and moral instruction, it is about as bad as you can well conceive, and the consequences you may imagine better than I can describe. Some have become utterly indifferent to their condition—and others worse. A few have retained the better feelings of their earlier days, perhaps in some cases enlivened by the contemplation of the spiritual desolation around them, and they can hardly help upbraiding the lukewarmness of their countrymen to their condition, in their anxiety to have the means of grace brought within their reach. But all their tears will be dried, unless timely aid is sent them—an invariable result of a few years being removed from the dispensation of religious ordinances is a callous indifference. I need not prolong my letter, already extended to too great a length, by a detailed account either of the good or the evil that came under notice. But I cannot help expressing my conviction that the Assembly's grant will prove an inestimable boon to these settlements, and will bring down a blessing on the parent Church.

On a report laid before them, the Presbytery of Quebec were impressed with the importance of taking immediate steps to have one or two of our ministers settled in some part of the townships, and appointed a committee to follow out their views with all practicable speed. This report was followed by a memorial (of which I send a copy) from the Scotch settlers of Melbourne, praying that the Presbytery would cause that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in that township, to those who had been in communion with the Church in their native land. Upon this, Dr. Cook, Messrs Muir, McPherson, and myself, went to Melbourne, a distance of about 130 miles. There was service in several of the settlements during the week-days, the attendance generally, however, small; but on the Sabbath there were about 200 present, and 34 communicated. Melbourne seemed, upon the whole, to be the most favourable station for the missionary, and the Presbytery appointed collections to be taken to form a fund, out of which £50 per annum should be added to the Assembly's grant of £100, also to continue three years. Mr. John McMorren, one of the missionaries of the Glasgow Colonial Society, was persuaded to accept the charge, and was ordained last week. A man better qualified for the station could hardly be found; and though he will, no doubt, meet with many discouragements, I hope he will be instrumental in laying a solid foundation for the extension of our Church in that moral wilderness. He will, I am persuaded, receive much encouragement from Mr. Fleming, the Episcopal clergyman, a man zealously attached to his own Church, and of a truly Christian spirit; who rejoices in the prospect of a minister of the sister Establishment being settled near him, as he hopes, by their united efforts, they may be able to check the dissensions that wandering sectaries have caused to spread among the people.

Dr. Cook, I presume, will have intimated to you or Dr. Welsh, Mr. McMorren's appointment, and solicited the Committee's concurrence. I hope to see the other missionary on the Assembly's bounty settled at Cowan's Mills, in the township of Dunham. There are several Scotch families in that quarter, and so soon as they heard that they were likely to receive aid in supporting their minister, they immediately set about raising funds for building a church, and I hear they have not only been zealous, but tolerably successful. They are likely to raise from £50 to £70 towards the support of a minister. This place seems to me to be the next best station for "locating" a missionary, and I hope to hear soon of the Committee's having appointed one. A man of great prudence and considerable talents, as well as piety, will only be fit for this station, for the old settlers in this neighbourhood are a rude and regardless people. I expected to have received before this time a statement of the particulars respecting this station. When they shall have reached me, I will forward a copy of it.

The townships of Leeds, Liverpool, &c. will require assistance; and Mr. Clugston has been requested to represent their case to the Glasgow Colonial Society. The Presbyterians in these townships had been formed into a congregation under Mr. McAulay, but, from the impropriety of his conduct among them, that congregation never flourished. Mr. Frazer, lately from Scotland, has been employed by the Presbyterians as their missionary, and sent