

to not less than £34,000 ; which being equally divided between India and America, the kindred and favourite fields of the Society's operations, afforded £17,000 to each of these missions, and swelled the annual income of the Society for that year to the sum of £83,142. This is the way that the Sister Establishment has thought proper to pursue, for more than a century, in promoting religion amongst her members in the Colonies, by subscriptions,—by donations,—by congregational collections,—by the Royal bounty, and by Parliamentary grants ; and although your Venerable Assembly could scarce expect to rival such a wealthy establishment, yet it might be advisable to consider whether similar plans might not be adopted for the religious instruction of the Scottish Emigrants, although upon a much smaller scale.

It is a cause of unfeigned congratulation to the friends of religion, that a spirit of enlightened zeal and active liberality is now beginning to become widely diffused throughout our Church ; and those who are so anxious for the extension at home, are by no means indifferent to her extension abroad, more especially when this extension is among their own countrymen and kinsmen according to the flesh—the members of their own families—their beloved children—their affectionate brothers and sisters—their long tried and valued friends, now living beyond the Western Ocean.

Your Petitioner feels encouraged and emboldened to plead the cause of his expatriated countrymen in British America, supported as he is by approving Overtures from different Presbyteries and Synods of our National Church, and by many enlightened and respected friends throughout his native land.

A general feeling seems to pervade the country, that the Church should now take all her Missions under her own immediate guidance and control. The people of Scotland are now waiting, with anxious expectation, for instruction and direction on this important subject, ready to lend a helping hand to all the Missionary Institutions of our Venerable Church, and embrace the very first opportunity which may be afforded them for casting in their liberal gifts into the treasury of the Lord.

*May it therefore please your Venerable Assembly to take the consideration of our countrymen in British America, under your immediate and serious consideration ; to devise some more extended and efficient means for the support and propagation of the Gospel amongst them ; to admit the Colonial Clergy into a stricter and closer union with the Parent Church ; and if judged advisable, also to a representation in your National General Assembly ; and your Petitioner shall ever pray.*

(Signed)

JOHN MARTIN.

Edinburgh, 20th May, 1836.