

prayer,—Awake! awake! O arm of the Lord, as in days of old, and as in former years.

### REV. MR. CHINIQUY AND HIS PEOPLE.

Our readers are aware that Mr. Chiniquy and his people have been received into the Communion of the Presbyterian Church (O. S.) The Presbytery of Chicago, to which they are attached, lately appointed a Committee to visit the settlement, and make a personal inquiry into the condition and circumstances of these French Colonists. The Committee have discharged the duty laid upon them, and have published a statement setting forth the real condition in which they found their brethren, and appealing in their behalf to the friends of truth and of humanity. The committee in their printed statement and appeal say, "The case is a new and unparalleled one, in the history of the Church in this country. We have not seen bodies of people, numbering thousands, in their organized capacities of families and churches, renouncing Romanism, becoming eager readers of the Bible, and proclaiming themselves Protestant.

"They are too, in some sense, a foreign element, speaking a strange tongue, but thereby bound to one another, and to more than 150,000 other inhabitants of the United States, and to six times that number still in Canada; and through the whole million of French-speaking Catholics, the effects of this movement are thrilling with every day's intelligence. All this strange spiritual movement is complicated with a distressing famine, occasioned by a second year of failure in all the staple crops of a people just starting in the work of opening their homes in a new country. No industry, no frugality could avail under the circumstances to carry them through the waiting and laboring time for another harvest. Winter would come, hunger would come, women and children must have clothing and bread—or die. Therefore farms were mortgaged, cattle and horses, necessary to make farming possible, were mortgaged or sold, and the proceeds consumed in sustaining present life. They could do nothing else. But this was not enough. The time was too prolonged. Then went up the cry of distress which thrilled through the heart of the nation, and the response began to come in the various forms of charitable relief. When this had brought present mitigation, the impression was sought to be made that the representations of the sufferings of the people were unworthy of confidence, and cautious friends were persuaded, that perhaps they could get along with what was already furnished.

"But the difficulty was, there were too many, and the time till anything could be grown out of the earth was too long, and the people had no effectual way of helping themselves, and neither hungry stomachs nor hungry creditors would wait. Clothes would wear out, especially when they had to be worn without change, and provisions could bear being eaten but once."

The Committee point out what may be done in enabling these people to help themselves. It is suggested that means should be supplied for the erection of places of worship, about ten of which are required for the accommodation of these who have now left Popery for the Bible, and also for the establishment of a high School at St. Anne, and other Schools at other points.

The Presbytery of Chicago had lately a meeting at St. Anne, on which occasion a congregation of a thousand persons at least assembled. Many were unable to be present in consequence of the want of decent clothing.

The Committee state that the suffering has not been confined to the French Colonists, the local Committee having extended assistance to more than one hundred families of American born citizens.

The case of these interesting people should awaken deep sympathy in the minds of all. They have peculiar trials. We observe it stated that they have been exposed to great trials from the efforts made by certain parties to unsettle their minds on the subject of baptism. The Board of Publication has commissioned four Colporteurs, who are all of French or Canadian origin, to labour among the French settlers in Northern Illinois, and we trust such means will be blessed for their establishment in the faith.

We ought to feel a deep interest in Mr. Chiniquy and his people. We know not what an influence their movements may exert on their brethren in Lower Canada. We believe these movements are already telling on the French Canadians. Let us earnestly pray that the time may be hastened when our fellow countrymen, so long kept in midnight darkness as to spiritual things, may be brought into the glorious light of the gospel.

### THE STATISTICAL RETURNS.

We trust Presbytery Clerks will be able to forward in time, to the Convener of the Committee on Statistics, full and correct returns from the Congregations within their several bounds.

We regret that in the blank Schedules sent to Congregations, the query as to the number of Deacons was, in some way or

other, left out. We trust that, where it is possible, Ministers will yet supplement the return.

There is great difficulty felt each year in obtaining full reports in sufficient time. We trust that there will be an endeavour made by all parties concerned to have the return as full and accurate as possible.

TO A CORRESPONDENT AT KEMPTVILLE.—We have not been in the habit of answering such questions as those sent to us by a subscriber, nor do we think that any good would be done by occupying space with the discussion of such points as those he refers to. But if he will send his name and address, we shall have pleasure in giving him written answers to his queries.

REV. W. KING.—The Rev. W. King, after spending some months in Ireland, Scotland, and England, in behalf of the Buxton Mission, came home with Mrs. King in March last. He has again gone to Britain to finish the work which he was unable previously to overtake. Dr. Burns has accompanied him. Mr. King, has remitted on account of the Mission premises at Buxton £350 sterling. He has also obtained a grant from the Mission Board of the Irish Presbyterian Church of the amount of £150 per annum, for aid of the Mission. In this, as in other grants made to the Church last year, we have the best evidence of the friendly feeling as well as of the liberality of the Church in Ireland.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON WESLEYAN MEMORIALS.—The Parliamentary Committee on the Wesleyan Memorials, with reference to the University endowment rose without adopting a report. It is understood, however, that a majority of the Committee were opposed to the claims of the Wesleyans.

ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.—The Anniversary of this Society was held on the evening of the 23rd ult. There was a large attendance, and the proceedings were interesting. The receipts showed a very considerable increase during the year.

### ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

PATAGONIAN MISSION.—This Mission has again met with a sad blow, in the massacre of all the crew, save one, of the Mission Brig, "Allen Gardiner." While worshipping on shore, on the Sabbath, they were attacked, and cruelly killed. The party formed only a branch of the Patagonian Mission, and brethren connected with the Mission are still willing to persevere, if sustained by friends at home.