

Redeemer gives much encouragement to present such petitions. When he beheld the multitudes of the Jewish people, who, on account of the unfaithfulness, and incompetency of their religious instructors, were regarded by him as "sheep having no shepherd," he had compassion on them, and thus addressed his disciples: "the harvest, truly, is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest." Are not the description and the command equally applicable to your condition? In all your supplications, therefore, in the family, and in the closet, forget not to beseech God, that he will remember the destitute condition of Canada,—that he may speedily send to it, "pastors according to his own heart," who shall search out the scattered multitudes, bring them into the fold of the good shepherd, and lead them to the green pastures of his word.

3. We would, in the third place, recommend *that those who feel the importance of religion, and are truly desirous of living near to God, should associate together in stated meetings, for reading the Scriptures, for prayer, and christian conference.* A blessing from on high has often rested on meetings of this description. "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard, and a book of remembrance was written for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." "Wherever two or three are met together in my name," saith Christ, "there am I in the midst of them." A more explicit warrant for such meetings, or more animating encouragement to constitute and frequent them, cannot be expressed. In the absence of public ordinances, a portion of the Lord's day might be spent in this manner very profitably, by a few christians who can walk together in unity. And the advantage derived from them would be still more decided, if, in addition to the meeting on Sabbath, a small portion of one day in a week, or even of a day out of two weeks, were set apart to similar exercises. The knowledge of divine truth is thus kept fresh in the mind, and the sacred fire of christian charity is stirred up and nourished. But, besides all the other advantages that may be expected to arise from this observance, we can assure you by experience, that a meeting of this kind frequently proves the germ of a flourishing congregation. As he who plants an acorn has done something towards the production of an oak, so he who is instrumental in setting on foot a fellowship meeting in the midst of a population destitute of public ordinances, will frequently have the satisfaction of finding, that he has had the honour of laying the foundation of a regular congregation in that community.

4. Finally, we would offer our advice, that while your *supreme dependence* in this, as in every other enterprise, should be on God, and the exalted Mediator; your *next* should be *on your own exertions.* For some time to come, it will probably be a matter of unavoidable necessity, that ministers should be sent to you by churches existing in other lands. But in regard to the *support* of those who labour among you, we have the firmest persuasion, that *wherever it is practicable, it should be chiefly or entirely furnished by yourselves.* We do not overlook the fact, that the British Parliament makes an annual grant of the public money for the advancement of religion in Canada, and were the sum so given, duly and faithfully appropriated, we could not but applaud

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