

## Mr. McKay's Mission and the result.

It is long since the *Record* has been the medium of making known to the people such cheering intelligence as we have now to communicate. It must delight our friends to hear, that we have now the almost certain prospect of seeing no less than six ordained missionaries arrive on this field in a few weeks. As it is likely that two of these are Gaelic preachers, their advent to this country, if it please God to conduct them safely to these shores, will be a gratification and, we trust, a blessing to thousands of our adherents. Should these expectations be realized, it will afford matter of deep thankfulness to the Giver of all good, who has heard the prayers of his people, cheer the drooping hearts of affectionate and devoted friends, and be viewed with satisfaction by all who desire the advancement of enlightened piety in the land.

It is generally known that some three months ago our friend and brother Mr. McKay was sent home by the Presbytery of Pictou as a delegate to the Colonial Committee and the Mother Church, not to solicit money, but to make arrangements for the supply of our vacant places. The presbytery having been constrained by the earnest and repeated solicitation of our adherents in Cape Breton to pay some attention to that interesting and important part of the country, and some of their vacant congregations needing supplies, were embarrassed by the demands made upon them for missionary duty. Correspondence with the Colonial Committee had led to the conviction that they were not fully cognizant of our position here or had in some way been misled and consequently that, without additional and special action, they would not assist us in our need to such an extent as our past experience would lead us to expect; provided our position were understood. For these reasons Mr. McKay was with his own consent appointed to go to Scotland as a delegate, for the purpose of properly representing our situation to the Colonial Committee, and soliciting the appointment of five or six missionaries to be sought out and selected by himself. That gentleman's well-known zeal, indefatigable determination and winning manners pointed him out as the proper person to undertake a task requiring much patience and address and involving labor.

Mr. McKay found, after fairly stating the case and removing some misapprehensions from the minds of members of the Committee as to our wants, that they were, as they always been, willing to assist us to the extent of their ability. The readiness with which they entered into his proposals has laid us under a fresh debt of gratitude to these friends. They consented to guarantee salaries of six missionaries for one year, and also pay the expenses of their passage to this field of labor; provided, as was offered, that the Church in Nova Scotia would either pay these salaries on this side and thus relieve the Church at home or refund the money due to the Committee. When it is considered that, to solicit licentiates to come to a strange country without such a guarantee would be almost useless, and when also the expense of sending out six missionaries is considered, we may perceive the extent of our obligation to the Mother Church in this matter. There are few schemes of the Church of Scotland which have done more good than the Colonial scheme, which thus holds out a helping hand to poor and struggling colonists in different and widely scattered portions of the great British empire. Long may it flourish in effective operation, and be a blessing to the world!

Our delegate having entered upon the duties of his mission met, as might be expected, with many discouragements. He addressed the students at three of the universities, and would have done the same at the whole four, but for the occurrence of the Christmas holidays, when he was at Glasgow. Where misapprehensions existed he endeavoured to remove them and give all necessary information, and the result shews that he has succeeded in awakening an interest in our Church here in the minds of many in Scotland. He corresponded with parties at a distance and, from what he says, we should imagine that his correspondence during three months would form a good sized volume. Frequently, when on the point of succeeding, he was met with a defeat and his hopes blasted. The difficulties of securing Gaelic preachers was especially great. Owing to the state of the Highlands, there is a serious want of Gaelic preachers even for the home-parishes, and hence the Church cannot be expected to assist as largely in one respect very essential for us.