

before the Free Church General Assembly in 1869, which excited a very deep interest :

“ Dr. Burns, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said he rejoiced to have another opportunity given him to say a few words in regard to the great interests of the land of his adoption. He had not been in Canada since he last addressed the General Assembly, though if God spared him, he hoped to return thither soon, considerably restored by his residence in Scotland, and greatly refreshed by what he had seen and heard since he came here. He looked forward to returning to the scene of his labours for the past twenty-four years with something of renewed relish, springing from what he had seen and heard in that Assembly, and also in friendly private intercourse with brethren. But though he had not been in Canada since he last addressed them, he had been in regular correspondence with the official brethren who had charge of matters connected with their church ; and he had been instructed by them to call the attention of the General Assembly of the Free Church to some particulars in regard to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the relations in which they had hitherto stood to the mother church. The first point was in regard to the Red River Settlement and the mission of the aborigines connected therewith. The settlement of the Red River now dates back somewhat more than sixty years. Some time after the settlement began, appeals were made to the Established Church for ministers, particularly ministers having Gaelic. No attention was paid to these appeals in any quarter. At the Disruption, instant application was made from the Selkirk settlement in the Hudson's Bay region to be furnished with ministers. The Colonial Committee were unable to meet the call, and transmitted the papers to the Canadian church ; and in three months that church designated and ordained a minister, whom they sent up the Red River colony, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, and after an absence of eighteen years that brother continues there a faithful servant of Christ in that interesting colony. He has since been followed by two other ministers—forming the legal number to constitute a Presbytery. With these there have also been sent two missionaries to the aborigines, and application has been received for a sixth minister. Now, surely, it is very interesting to find that such a number of congregations, holding by Presbyterian order, and appearing by their representatives in the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, have been fixed in that colony—a field never touched before. And this has been occupied by the Canadian church without aid in men or money from any other source whatever. And now he was instructed to bring earnestly under the notice of the Free Church Colonial Committee the desire of the Canadian church to have some help in regard to the mission to the aborigines in the Red River Settlement. The second point to which he was instructed to call attention was in regard to British Colum-