

pointed a Deputation, consisting of the Rev. James Glasgow, Mr. D. K. Clarke, and myself, to visit and hold Missionary meetings in the Churches and Stations within their bounds. We have just completed the task assigned to us, and, in compliance with your request, I now send you the following brief notice of our tour. Of course it is impossible, in a page of the *Herald*, to specify the services, or detail the occurrences, of a four weeks' tour—extending over the whole of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, as well as a part of Ulster. It is obvious that you must be content with the merest abstract of our labours, and the most general survey of the state and prospects of the Mission field we have traversed.

From the 13th of last month, till the 10th of the present, we have visited almost every station within the Synod's bounds; having, in the performance of this task, travelled 1,900 miles, and addressed 40 meetings, congregations, &c.; and, it is but justice to state, that, in almost every place, the attendance was excellent, the feeling most cordial, and, so far as we could judge, the result of our visit extremely gratifying.

Perhaps the best idea we can give your readers of the progress of these stations, is to state that, whereas, 30 years ago, we had not South of Ulster more than four or five congregations in all, we have now forty-two congregations, with numerous stations, out-stations, and schools. At a much later period many of these congregations exhibited all the weakness of infancy, numbering some dozen of members, meeting for worship in some small room, and dependent on such periodical supplies as the Directors could send them.—Most of these are now in a prosperous condition—presided over by devoted pastors—worshipping in neat and commodious Churches—contributing both to Stipend and Mission funds, at least five or six times more, in proportion to their strength, than the average of our Northern congregations—and numbering, in their ranks, not a few devoted followers of the Lamb. But a few years ago, our Roman Catholic Mission had not much more than a being, save on the mountains of Antrim and Tyrone; while now its schools and congregations, in Connaught, Kerry, Birr, &c., number thousands of inquirers, and converts; and its agents have free access to districts where, seven years ago, they durst not have appeared.

We think the bare recital of these facts is enough to prove our Home Mission's amazing success. Yet this is not all, for we must not overlook its indirect influence on surrounding communities. Each new congregation we form seems, in general, to produce the happiest effects on the parochial clergy of the district; increasing most wonderfully their zeal and diligence. While the influence of our Roman Catholic Missions has already been surprising in checking the violence and impostures of the priests, and diminishing the bondage and superstition of the people.

While we give the glory of all this success to Him to whom alone it is due, we feel that we would be guilty of a positive wrong did we omit a passing tribute to the men by whose instrumentality He has been pleased to effect it. We know of no Church whose out-posts present such a combination of talent, energy, and holy zeal, as ours. Exposed to privations, and contending single-handed with difficulties, which our Northern ministers scarce as much as know, it is the singular honour of the Irish Presbyterian Church to possess a band of Missionaries, who have commanded the respect of rival and even hostile communities; and whose wise, patient, prayerful toils, have made our Mission field the admiration of the Churches.

So much for the progress; and now one word on the prospects of our Home Mission. Much as it has been instrumental in effecting, we believe it has only commenced its career, and that the next few years will witness a progress of which its past success is little more than an earnest. Never did a country experience, in the same

brief time, a more wonderful change than has passed over Ireland during the last six years. Then, Irish Poetry could boast seven millions of slaves; now, it has not four and a half. Then its demons of agitation and murder stalked over the land; now they seem so completely laid that Tipperary itself is quiet. Then its ramparts seemed perfectly impregnable, and the efforts of our missionaries to come, as vain as seemed the blowing of the trumpets beneath the walls of Jericho; now its battlements seem everywhere crumbling into ruins. Famine is cutting off its supplies. Emigration is emptying its Chapels. Evangelisation is breaking its powers. While immigration is bringing hundreds of Scotch settlers to the districts which its persecuted veterans are vacating. Our new congregation of Athy is entirely composed of such settlers; and, during our recent tour, we met them wherever we came. Thus the potato failure, to which we looked with dismay as the ruin of our country, is, in the hands of a wonder-working Providence, about to prove its salvation. The agencies it has set a-going are certain, at no distant day, to effect, under God, the regeneration of Ireland. Indeed, let but the tides of emigration and immigration, alone continue flowing for some years, as they are now morally certain to do, and the result must be the destruction of Popery, and the triumph of Protestantism, in Ireland. This two-fold agency will itself empty Rome's Chapels, and fill, and multiply, our Mission Churches, with the arms of priests, and strengthen those of our missionaries; and thus, at the same moment, clear the country of its moral dreariness, and sow it with the seeds of a thousand blessings, as the showers and sunbeams of the vernal season, at the same time melt away the snows of winter, and cover the landscape with the flowers of spring.

HENRIANA.

Confession of sin must be accompanied with holy resolution not to return to it.

Many come to ordinances who feel not the power of them.

Those are not penitents who, while they say they are sorry for sin, still persist in it.

The word does no good when we do not take it ourselves.

Many hide the lie that ruins them in their right hand, and roll it under their tongue; they keep in the devil's interest by keeping the devil's counsel.

It is vain presumption to think that good relations will save us.

Sacraments derive no efficacy from those who administer them, they only apply the sign; it is Christ's prerogative to give the thing signified.

It is a great comfort to faithful ministers to think that Jesus Christ is mightier than they, and can do that for them and by them which they cannot do.

When Christ began to preach he preached humility; preached it by example; preached it to all, but especially to young ministers.

Those who would rise high, must begin low.

God has further honours for those who continue lowly, when their reputation rises.

Christ's condescensions are so great as to appear mysterious to the strongest believer.

The purest souls are most sensible of their own remaining impurity, and most earnestly desire cleansing.

No humility must make us decline our duty.

Secular honour and power seldom dispose men's minds to the reception of divine light.

Those speak best for Christ, that say least for themselves.

Temptations to pride ought to be resisted with great vigour and earnestness.

Those that will not deny themselves, do in effect deny Christ.

Ministers are but the voice by which God is pleased to communicate his blessing.

Ministers must preach as those who are in earnest, and are themselves affected with those things which they declare.

Those words are not likely to shake the hearers' heart, that freeze between the speaker's lips.

Christ did not affect novelty, nor should his ministers.

Divine justice drowned the old world, but divine grace is cleansing the new.

It is better that men should take advantage of our low thoughts of ourselves to trample upon us, than the devil take advantage of our high thoughts to tempt us into his condemnation.

Ministers must not set up for masters.

Those who have welcomed Christ may welcome death.

As it is pleasant to think how many there are to whom Christ and his gospel are a savor of life unto life, so it is sad to think how many there are to whom it is a savor of death unto death.

In the midst of our greatest delights and advancements in this world, it is good for us to know and remember that bonds and afflictions abide us.

Devotion is a thing in which we ought to be constant; other duties are in season now and then, but we must pray always.

Those who are diligent and faithful in improving the light and means which they have, shall have further discoveries made to them.

Worldly business ought to give way to spiritual concerns.

Those children that are forward in other things, should be put forward in religion.

It is for the honour of Christ that children should attend public worship, and he is pleased with their hosannas.

It is good to see young people willing to dwell in the house of the Lord; they are then like Christ.

If we would find Christ, we must seek him sorrowing; sorrowing that we had provoked him to withdraw, and that we have not sought him sooner.

Young people as they grow in stature, should grow in wisdom, and then, as they grow in wisdom, they will grow in favour with God and man.

As the word of God is not bound in a prison, so it is not lost in a wilderness.

That which puts people upon considering and reasoning with themselves, prepares the way for Christ.

There is a great deal to be done to make way for Christ into a soul—to bow the heart for the reception of the Son of God.

Those who call others to repentance, should themselves lead a life of seriousness and mortification.

Frequently those have most real honour who least court the shadow of it.

Those who know spiritual pleasures cannot but look upon the delights of sense with a holy indifference.

They who truly desire the sincere milk of the word, if it be not brought to them, will seek it.

There may be many forward hearers, where there are but few true believers.

Prayers of faith are filed in heaven, and though not presently answered are not forgotten.

In God's gracious dealings with us we ought to observe his gracious regard to us.

Mercies long waited for, when they come at last are the more acceptable.

No distance or disadvantage of place shall prove a prejudice to those for whom God has favours in store.

Those who have found favour with God, should not give way to disquieting, distrustful fears.

Those who are by adoption the children of God, are divinely great and noble, and should therefore strive to be divinely good.

Such as are filled with the Holy Ghost have low thoughts of their own merits, and high thoughts of God's favours.