

Fleming, McLagan, Brown, Sir David Brewster, and other learned professors! (Continued applause.) Then, to go apparently beyond the bound of this Assembly, but not in reality beyond it, have we not the singularly remarkable and altogether unique descriptive powers of Hugh Miller,—(applause)—powers, that have been consecrated to the service of this Church in the times of her necessities, in a way which, in the opinions of some of us who are sojourners in distant lands, can never be adequately appreciated and recompensed, and whose late and last work, the greatest of his works, "the Footprints of the Creator"—(great applause)—we must hold to be the most original and important contribution which natural science has of late years rendered to the cause of natural theology—(renewed applause)—a work, the unchallengeable accuracy of whose facts can only be equalled by the graphic and pictorial delineation of them,—a work, the literary beauties and illustrative felicities of whose style can only be rivalled by the closeness and conclusiveness of its reasonings, alike inductive and deductive—and, light and best of all, a work around which there exhales the fresh savour of godly reverence and holy awe! (Loud cheers.) Now, then, when we look at these almost boundless diversities of talent, attainment, and disposition, and find all moving on, not in antagonism, or turbulent collision, like the discordant atoms of a Miltonic chaos, but moving on, in obedience to one great overmastering principle,—that of faith which worketh by love,—in one grand and solemn procession around the great central sun of our system,—even Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, the King of Saints,—have we not in this amazing spectacle one of the greatest moral miracles of ancient and modern times! (Applause.)

The Report of the Colonial Committee is very interesting, and embraces a wide field. The following is that part of it which refers immediately to our own Church:—

"The first field of operation was that great region of North America where so many of our countrymen have found a new home and formed a new Scotland. The Canadian Free Church rose almost simultaneously with our own, and rapidly like our own has assumed a place of importance beyond what could at first have been expected. In six years the number of congregations has doubled itself, and hastens to do the same again; the number of preaching stations has increased in the same proportion, and the number of students at Knox's College, Toronto, in a still greater proportion. There were this year upwards of fifty students preparing for the ministry. Six preachers were licensed last year. Five more are now ready for license; and thirty students, who have still to return to college, have gone to spend the summer in the service of the Home Mission.

"To the College of Toronto we have annually given a considerable grant, and added to it one or two bursaries. Even in money this has produced more than three times its amount by the local efforts it has originated and stimulated; and in labours, no effort which we could have made could possibly have sent an equal number into that field. At little more than the expense of maintaining suitably one minister there, we have by means of the College, helped to send forth, in two years, eleven fully educated preachers, many of whom are already called to labour in important places.

"But while the College is thus our main hope for the future supply of Canada, we have also done what we could to supply existing destitution from our own Church, and we have the high satisfaction of thinking, that now, either by our exertions or by the help of others, the most important stations in both Upper and Lower Canada are permanently occupied, except Montreal and Quebec. The former of these has met with another severe trial in the decline, by Mr.

Lewis of Leith, of their unanimous call to be their pastor. The latter has for the first time, this year obtained the services of a resident deputy, and both have willingly and gratefully agreed to bear the expense of those sent to them from this country.

"These deputations, of which those now mentioned are the only two remaining in America, have cost the Church a considerable sum, but when we think of the importance and influence of the place supplied—of the impulse given to local exertions by the presence, experience, and counsel of these brethren,—of the many thousands who, from their lips and by their labours, heard the words of eternal life,—of the vigour and prosperity of the Church which they have so much helped to cherish,—we feel deeply convinced that in no other way, by any thing like the same expenditure of means, could the gospel have been so widely preached, or good so extensively done, in that country.

"Nor has this good been merely outward; the labours of the various deputies and missionaries of this Church to Canada have been in general greatly blessed; and on some places God has poured out signally His Holy Spirit, as in the late field of Dr. McGilvray's labours in Gengarry, where not only scattered elements have been gathered, conflicting ones arranged, congregations organized, the comely order of the Free Church established; but where many have been aroused to seek the Lord, and many remain on every side who thankfully proclaim that they and theirs in that district will bless God to all eternity, for sending the ministers of the Free Church to preach the gospel in the waste places of Canada.

"We have said that some of those destitute places have been supplied; and we have to record with gratitude that Lingwick, Salmon River, so interesting both from its long-continued destitution and its spiritual condition, is one of these, but some of them also are still destitute; and we deeply regret to have to record on the other side, that Red River, Hudson's Bay, is of this number. The touching appeal made to us by these long-neglected settlers has been as yet in vain. One young man has offered to leave a comfortable situation in a mercantile house, and go out as catechist. No one has as yet been found willing to go as minister. So confident were these settlers that they would not appeal to the Free Church in vain, that they actually sent a deputation eight hundred miles to meet their minister; and their disappointment was all the more bitter," says the touching letter which records it, "that the ship which brought them nothing, brought an English bishop and two curates to the colony." Surely some one will be found willing to go forth to these scattered ones, and no longer leave them as sheep without a shepherd."

Next in order, the sister Church in Nova Scotia is noticed. Apart from New Brunswick and Newfoundland, the adherents of the Free Church in the Lower Provinces, are estimated at 20,000.

"The assembly have already expressed their deep interest in the College at Halifax. This year has been to the College one of very peculiar trial, and yet a year of continued efficiency for the ends for which it was established. By the lamented death of Professor McKenzie, so universally beloved and respected, that institution sustained a very great loss; and an immense amount of labour has been necessarily thrown on Professor King. Night and day he devoted himself to it; and, with the assistance of Messrs Romans and Honeyman, the students received the full amount of instruction which the session gave opportunity for. The Committee are anxiously looking for a suitable successor to Professor McKenzie, and have the fullest confidence that, if only the means could be procured for the maintenance of students during the session, their numbers would greatly increase, and this institution be found more and more one of the greatest boons

that could be conferred on the lower colonies.—The local exertions made to support this College are very encouraging. Notwithstanding the failure of the crops during two seasons, and consequent scarcity—notwithstanding the opposition manifested by those who see in it a symptom of strength and permanence to the Presbyterian cause which they dislike—and notwithstanding the erection of churches, demanded almost everywhere by the same severity of law with which we are so well acquainted at home, there has been raised locally upwards of £700 for the College during last year, and an annual collection ordered for it by the Synod.

"The following are the sums, says the first Report of the College, contributed by the several Presbyteries adhering to the Free Church in these lower provinces:—

Presbytery of Halifax, N. S.	£162 18 7
" Pictou	206 6 8½
" Cape Breton	230 10 4
" New Brunswick	115 17 1

which, with £25 of donation from Richard Kidston, Esq., makes the whole already received, £740, 12s. 8½d."

In reference to the Churches in Canada and the sister Provinces, the report says.—

"Altogether, in looking to these regions of the earth, the Free Church has much cause for gratitude to God. We passed over that sea with our staff, we may say, and, behold, God has made us two bands. Two sister Churches, with their congregations, sessions, presbyteries, and General Assemblies, with their colleges, schemes, and little band of preachers and missionaries, have sprung up in connection with our labours. When a statesman of George the Fourth's was taunted with having expended the means of his country, and yet marked the history of his time with no corresponding event, his answer was, 'We have defended right, and summoned into being two free and independent States, that will henceforth take their place in the history of nations;' so, in like manner, with gratitude to God, and giving all the glory to Him, may the Church say to men who think more of what has been given, than of what has been done, we have proclaimed truth, and helped to raise, in these distant regions, two Free Churches, fully equipped, that will henceforth take their place amongst the Churches which bear witness for the whole truth of God, and the crown rights of Jesus on the earth. And then, let it be ever remembered, that this has been done in regions filled already with the best of our countrymen, and hastening to be filled more and more so; nay, in regions which may speedily become the great road for the nations of the earth—the great medium of communications betwixt all Europe and the millions of the earth. One of the magnificent schemes of these times, and one towards which an incipient step has been taken, is to open up a way to the East through the great basin of the St. Lawrence. If this should ever be done, doubtless our countrymen will crowd to the work, and to the new settlements to which the work will lead—from Halifax, till they meet their advancing brethren from the other side at Colombia river and Vancouver's island; and, if so, they would already find their own Church planted along a great portion of this far-stretching line. From Halifax to Quebec, from Quebec to London, even towards Lakes Huron and Superior, they would already find the Sabbaths and the Sabbath worship of Scotland—friendly houses opened, where Scotland's sons would ever be welcome—Christian fort-taken possession of, each displaying the banner which the Lord had given us because of the truth, and forming a rallying-point and nucleus for the formation of future Churches, whose influence over the gathering population would be of immense importance to them, and a blessing to the world at large."

We have only space to notice that part of this able report which more immediately concerns this country. The missions of the Free Church are