

It is one of the most painful situations in which our Colonial Missionaries can be placed, to stand between the living and the dead, to feel their bowels of compassion move towards their perishing brethren, and yet be restrained by dire necessity from hastening to their aid. In Upper and Lower Canada, these inconveniences are to a certain extent removed, as the Ministers of our Church in these two Colonies receive £1000 a-year from the proceeds of the Church Lands, a sum which contributes not a little to the prosperity of the smaller congregations, as well as to the success of Missionary exertions. But it is not so generally known as it ought to be, that the Ministers of your Church in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward's Island, enjoy no such assistance; that their support is exclusively derived from the contributions of their own congregations; and that from the poverty of many of the settlers, rather than from an indifference to religion, this support is necessarily precarious, and sometimes even scanty. Indeed, but for the generous and disinterested liberality of the Glasgow Colonial Society, many of the stations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, now enjoying a stated Ministry, could never have been occupied at all, or if occupied, must, for want of means, have either been imperfectly supplied, or speedily abandoned.

Great, however, as the exertions of this excellent Society have been, and liberal its donations, it has never been able to accomplish all that could be wished in the Colonies. The field of labour has proved too vast for its energies, as a private association, more especially as its funds have been drawn only from particular districts of Scotland.

Your Petitioner considers that the time has now arrived for forming a more extended and efficient system of Missionary operations, in connection with our Church; that a deaf and an unwilling ear ought not to be turned to the earnest, and repeated, and melting entreaties, which are addressed to her by her brethren across the Atlantic, and that seventy Ministers of our Establishment ought not to be left to struggle with almost insuperable obstacles, and with little encouragement from Scotland, in ministering to a population of nearly 300,000 souls, who profess their adherence to our Standards and Church Government.

It does not become your humble Petitioner to suggest how, or in what manner, your Venerable Assembly ought to extend its assistance to the Colonial Churches. He may, however, be permitted to allude to the efforts of the Sister Establishment for the support of her Ministers, and the instruction of her members, in the Western World. For more than a century she has maintained a numerous band of Missionaries, formerly in the United States, and since their separation in the Provinces of British America. She has her Society for propagating the Gospel, with its numerous branches and auxiliaries, in almost every diocese, and every deanry, and every parish throughout England. The nobles of the land, the bishops, the beneficed clergy, the heads and professors of the two Universities, the rectors, and even the curates, are almost all annual subscribers, and many of them liberal benefactors to the society. The Archbishop of Canterbury placed at its head, is always happy to preside at the annual, and frequently at the monthly meetings of the Society, and to plead the cause of the North American Colonists, before the highest and wealthiest of the nobles, and in the presence of our beloved Sovereign himself.

In the year 1832, through the influence of the leading members of the Society, the King was graciously pleased to issue a Royal letter, directing the Clergy to make collections in aid of its funds. These collections were made during that year in every church and chapel in England and Wales; and although many of the collections were small, yet the aggregate sum amounted