

at Jerusalem the superintendence of distributions to the poor belonged exclusively to ecclesiastical office-bearers, over whom no unofficial persons could exercise any authoritative inspection or control, seems to be undeniably apparent. Now it follows of course, that this must still be the proper and only Divinely sanctioned mode of conducting such managements, unless it can be shown that the constitution of the Church has subsequently undergone such a change that the authoritative inspection and control which were originally vested in ecclesiastical office-bearers alone, were afterwards in the Church at Jerusalem, or other Churches, transferred to persons of a different description.

Such a supposition must at once appear improbable. May it not be deemed unworthy of God, who does not need to correct his own plans, and to withdraw, under the same dispensation, one constitution for the sake of substituting another? The Church of Jerusalem was intended as a model for all other Churches. Those around it, in Judea, were formed upon the same plan. And the Churches of the Gentiles are commended for being imitators of the Churches which were in Judea.

That the existence of Deacons in all the primitive Churches constituted one great feature of their resemblance to the Mother Church, is evident from the inspection of the Apostolic Epistles. In perusing them, we find the office of the Deacons mentioned more frequently, and more distinctly, than even the office of the Elder, who simply governs, and mentioned, not as an extraordinary, or occasional, but as a permanent office.—“If any man Minister,” says Peter, in his first Epistle, chapter iv. 11, “or discharge the functions of a Deacon, let him do it as with the ability which God giveth.” Paul seems to refer to the same office when he says, Romans xii. 8.—“He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity.” And in 1st Corinthians, xii. 28, he speaks of the Deacons as Helps, a term which descriptively indicates their official subserviency to the governors of the Church. In the beginning of the epistle to the Philippians, we find them addressed by name: “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints at Philippi, with the Bishops and Deacons.” And in 1st Timothy, iii, 8, 13, the importance of the office, and the qualifications necessary for the proper discharge of its duties, are largely described.

Upon the whole, then, it appears that the Apostolic Epistles exhibit the Deaconship as a standing office in the Church, as an office of which one object at least is distribution to the necessities of the poor (a distribution, as we showed, under the authoritative control of Church governors alone), and as an office of high importance, involving a great trust, and requiring very respectable qualifications in those who hold it.

But that part of the enquiry, which is most important to us at present, remains as yet unanswered. It is, whether and how far, the functions of this office extend beyond the distribution of alms. [This subject will be continued in our next.]

• *Diakonoi.*

Home Missions.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

JUNE 8, 1846.

Within the bounds of Toronto Presbytery there are at present only two regularly settled congregations with Ministers set over them. Thus the difficulties in the way of supplies to vacant districts must be great. These, however, have been greatly alleviated by the services of Messrs. Esson and Harris, who have been at all times ready to give their labour in Evangelical or Missionary proceedings. The aid rendered also by the advanced students has been most effective, and for all the services cheerfully rendered by those young gentlemen, without any pecuniary compensation in their view, the Synod and the Presbytery cannot but entertain a grateful remembrance.

The districts within the bounds forming so many circuits for preaching amount to 12; and the Stations requiring supply, between 40 and 50. District I. Comprehends 4 Stations in or near

Toronto City; York Mills, Yonge Street, 1st. Concession, Stone Church, and Humber. These Stations have been regularly supplied with one Sermon each Sabbath. One of them has been very lately opened, a id with good encouragement. The first two on the list are quite ready to receive a pastor; and the other two, with the addition of Weston, 4 miles from Humber, would form an excellent Ministerial charge, to which in the meanwhile it is the wish of the people and of the Presbytery that a stated Missionary should be appointed.

II. Markham District comprises five Stations—Markham Village, Crosby's and Reid's Corners, Brown's Corner, Scarborough and Pickering.—The first three have been supplied pretty regularly for a year; the others are filled very lately.—Since the rising of the classes in the Seminary, Mr. James Boyd, one of the advanced students, has, at the request of the people in the several localities, supplied stately all those places, and the Presbytery can with pleasure testify to the promising attendance and the pleasing prospects of success in that important District.

III. The District to the East of Markham, embracing Brock, Reach, Uxbridge, and Scott, has been very lately taken under the charge of the Presbytery. After a visit by one of the members, it was on his recommendation resolved to station Mr. John Black, one of the advanced students, there, for the Summer season. Mr. Black has been labouring there since the end of April, and while he has had some difficulties to encounter, he has regularly preached at four Stations, two on each Sabbath, alternately; and has established Sabbath Schools, and prayer meetings. Dr. Willis paid a visit to this District, and devoted a Sabbath to as many stations as he could undertake.

IV. The next District in order is Eldon and Thorah, including, also, parts of Mariposa, Mara, and Georgian. This is almost wholly a Highland District, and it is one of the most important within the bounds of the Presbytery. It has been repeatedly visited by Mr. Rintoul, Mr. McColl, Dr. Burns, and latterly by Mr. Mactavish, the excellent deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, who devoted not less than two Sabbaths with the interesting week to the instruction of the settlers, in their own language, preaching every day and visiting the families. The settlers in this extended District have never had a settled Ministry, although their congregation may be said to have been organized sixteen years ago. The more pious have, as with one voice, declared for the Free Church, and all the efforts of the Deputies from the Establishment who went to them in Autumn last signally failed in moving them from their principles. The Presbytery lament their inability to afford them permanent assistance.

V. In the District of Orillia, Oro, and Medonte, three stations, the Gaelic language predominates, and Mr. Mactavish has either visited these places or intends yet to do so. A neat Church has been built at Oro, which was opened early in Spring by Dr. Burns, and there is the prospect of a Gaelic Minister being settled there soon. The supplies for this large District have been hitherto on a very imperfect and limited scale.

VI. Nottawasaga District comprises three Stations, at moderate distances from each other, and in all of which Gaelic predominates. Mr. James Mair, an excellent Gaelic Lay Missionary, has been settled here for two years, and his labours have been blest. Besides these three Stations, there is a Scotch settlement in the North part of the Township of Essa, where about fourteen families reside, Presbyterians attached to Free Church principles, and almost wholly secluded from intercourse with other settlers. Mr. Mair has paid them an occasional visit, and one of the junior Students is at present resident amongst them as a teacher. Thus public or social worship will be kept up amongst them, even in the absence of the visits of Ministers or Missionaries. The District of Nottawasaga has received visits from Mr. Macintosh and Dr. Burns, and is about to receive a visit from Mr. Mactavish.

VII. West Gwillimbury District, along with the Town of Bradford, form two stations; but the great mass are in Gwillimbury, an Elder from which is at present a member of this Synod.—They have built a neat Church, which was opened in July, last year, and in which the Communion was dispensed in September. During a great pe

of last season, Mr. McKinnon, now of St. Thomas, supplied the stations of Gwillimbury and Bradford. He was succeeded by Mr. McColl and the students in succession. The distance prevented a full supply during winter. Mr. Mactavish spent a Sabbath amongst them, but at present they are entirely destitute.

VIII. Vaughan and King may be classed together, as one District; but there are four stations in all, where worship has been kept up once a fortnight. In Vaughan there are many Gaelic settlers who are thirsting eagerly for the Word of Life, in their own language, and to whom the visits of Highland Ministers have been “few and far between.” Mr. Mactavish gave them two sermons on a week day, and Mr. MacLachlan, another respected Deputy, gave them the whole of last Sabbath. Mr. Esson and Mr. Harris have paid repeated visits to these Stations, but the Presbytery are greatly at a loss how to find them full supply.

IX. The Chinguacousy and Norval Districts, comprising four Stations, were long superintended by Mr. Robert Wallace, who has lately accepted a call to Otonabee, where he is to be settled.—Mr. Peter Gray, one of the more advanced students has laboured there since the rising of the Session, and will soon be settled over them; but Norval and Union Church will be specially the sphere of his labours.

X. Lequering, Scotch Block, Acton, Nassagaweya, and Caledon, form a most extensive and necessitous District, where, however, the spirit of attachment to the Free Church is strong, and the people very liberal. Various supplies have been sent to them, but altogether inadequate to the demand. Of the ability to support the Gospel in those parts there can be no doubt. May the Great Lord of the Harvest send forth labourers into this rich field.

XI. Mono, with adjoining Townships, is a District which stands greatly in need of a settled Ministry. The friends of our Church in that quarter have manifested a noble spirit of disinterested attachment to principle, and well deserve every attention that can be paid to them. Some six to eight Stations might with great advantage be occupied here. The distance of Mono from Toronto rendered it impracticable to send them supply by means of the Students; but they have occasionally been visited by different Ministers.—Mr. Esson has agreed to bestow three Sabbaths among them in the course of this month, and he may probably be succeeded by one of the Students. They have got up the frame of a Church, which will be finished in the course of the season.

XII. Lastly, Oakville District, including Trafalgar Mills and Robertson's School, form together a fine pastoral charge, and the people are ripe to make a choice. They have received on the whole regular supplies, and there Mr. Scott, one of our most promising Students is labouring with great acceptance. In one of the places a neat Church has lately been built, and another is about to be erected in Oakville Village.

In addition to these twelve Districts, the Presbytery of Toronto has charged itself for six months past with the supply of Niagara and Cross Roads. By means of the Students, Mr. Esson and Mr. Harris, the supply has been tolerably regular, except when the state of the Lake in Winter prevented the sailing of the steamers.

The Presbytery repeat, that every where there is a thirsting for the Word of Life. In several places the fields seem to be white to the harvest.—The want of reapers is the only obstacle in our way. May the Great Lord of the Harvest send labourers, and His blessing with them, and to Him shall be the praise.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

The bounds of the Presbytery of Kingston, as laid out by the Synod at the Disruption, in July, 1844, covers a territory extending to about 200 miles in length, and the average breadth perhaps 100 miles; and the part of it containing Congregations, or ground actually occupied may be stated at 140 miles in length and 80 in breadth.

By reason of this great extent of bounds, the scattered and unequally distributed nature of the destitute part of the field, and because a very large part of it lay in the Districts of Bathurst, Dal-