

to the free and sovereign grace of God. We shall revert occasionally to this Mission.

# COBBOURG MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

Sir,

I entirely agree with the observations made by Mr. Gale at the Meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton, in January, as reported in your last number, respecting the feebleness which has characterized the past efforts of our Synod and Presbyteries in reference to Missions; and I agree with him further in attributing this "to a too exclusive reliance on foreign aid, and the want of a proper organization for collecting and combining the resources of the country under the direction of the Church Courts." That something of this kind is necessary to remove or alleviate the spiritual destitution which prevails in this country, must be obvious to all who are in the least degree acquainted with its state. It is known to myself, and many of your readers, that there are numbers belonging to our Zion, who since they crossed the Atlantic have never once heard the Gospel proclaimed by any Minister of our Church. One sabbath after another passes away without their being called to go up to the Lord's house to unite with his people in his worship and service. Of those who are thus deprived of public ordinances, there may be a few who on the sabbath join together in praising God's name, supplicating his mercy and reading his word; but no one will say that this for any length of time can satisfy the desires of those who have been accustomed from their childhood to attend divine ordinances, and have experienced the improvement and consolation that flows from them; and believe that "the Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob."

But the melancholy fact also must be known to many of your readers, that not

a few of those who once enjoyed, and greatly valued religious ordinances, have in consequence of the privation of them in their new settlements, sunk into a state in which even the desire of them is extinguished. Instead of asking themselves the question "wherewithal shall I come before the Lord," or "what shall I do to be saved"—their constant inquiry is what shall I eat, or what shall I drink, or wherewithal shall I be clothed? They do not hail with joy the day of sacred rest. If it do not hang heavy on their hands through illness, they waste it in amusement and dissipation. What must the danger of the children of such parents, and of such a community be, with such an example always before their eyes? Must they not sink into a state nearly allied to that of the savage, in which the gratification of appetite is the chief concern, and when its cravings are appeased, whose time and life are dozed away in utter heedlessness or ignorance of the high end for which they are bestowed. If these facts are true, and who can deny them, are we to sit still, and fold our hands? Are we deserving of the name of Christians, if we make no exertions to prevent this spiritual degradation, into which many are sinking, or are already sunk, even though they themselves should care for none of these things? The following remarks which a Minister of our Church made at a Meeting of the Glasgow Church Building Society, are worthy of being transcribed as appropriate to this subject: "It is an affecting thing to see the poor seeking for the bread and water of life, when there is none to dispense them; but there is another sight more deplorable still, the sight of thousands who live and die caring for none of these things; in whose hearts the feelings of the slavery of sin have become so natural and inveterate that they have not even a wish to be free from their state of degradation. We are told that the traveller who sinks into the wreaths of the snow-storm soon becomes torpid, and