

one and all, done yeomen's service in the relaying, we may almost say, of our very foundations. But the point is, not the merits—the undeniable merits, and the invaluable services of our much respected brethren who forsook the mother country to supply our waste places, but the state in which the fact that a majority of our ministers are of Scottish birth, proclaims our church in these colonies to be. Is it a healthy sign of our condition, that our own young men either decline the pulpit as a profession, or, if educated therefor, take their departure from our shores with all convenient speed? The question answers itself; or, should doubt be expressed, let the history of the church in every age be appealed to. What is its unanimous testimony? Is it not that nowhere has Christianity—nowhere has any denomination, permanently flourished, where the ministry has not been supplied from among the people of the land. A church, like any other institution, must become fully acclimatised, else it is forever tottering on the verge of dissolution.

When any given church becomes stationary while there is room for expansion, and while other churches not, apparently, more adapted to the requirements of a country, actually do expand,—much more when a church begins to betray unmistakable symptoms of decadence, it is surely a duty to examine into the cause of its failure, comparative or actual, with the view (such causes being presumed to be ascertainable) of arresting their further action; or, if that be impracticable, of holding them up by way of warning. We are far from deeming ourselves fully competent to undertake this enterprise, and should be glad were it attempted by abler hands. But a well meant effort may be the means of stirring up others to investigate the subject, to probe our wounds more accurately, and to suggest remedies more effectual than any which have occurred to us.

It tends to baffle us in some measure, that, viewing our church in the Dominion as a whole, it presents two sets of aspects, to a great extent dissimilar. Thus, should it be urged, as it has been urged, that, in the Maritime Provinces, our church is, in several respects, defective

in its organization, lacking, *e. g.*, a Widows' Fund, a Divinity Hall, means of Endowment, and the like, and that these defects account more or less for its stationariness, it may be fairly replied that our church in the Upper Provinces is in full possession of all these, and that, notwithstanding, its condition is even more deplorable than our own. Or, should stress be laid upon the evils of the voluntary system, the obvious reply is, that other churches are thriving despite these alleged evils.

A review of the history of our church in these Colonies might assist us in ascertaining how she has come to occupy her present position. But, in addition to the fact that such a review would have the tendency of ripping up old sores, it would not enable us to remedy existing evils. And, on the whole, it seems best, as a rule, to "let the dead past bury its dead."

In our belief, the main causes of our stationary, or retrograde, condition, are (1), The habit fostered, or prevalent among our people, of looking for help out of every difficulty—and especially every pecuniary difficulty—to the mother church: which (2), Reacts upon the minds of the ministers, creates a feeling of distrust as to the security of their support, prevents their identifying themselves with the interests of the country in which they have come to reside, and induces a longing to return to the country to which the majority of them belong, or to go where the feeling of insecurity may be less oppressive. We may be mistaken; but the more the above causes are considered, the more, we think, will they be seen to constitute the leading elements in the causes which so evidently hamper our progress. The Church of Scotland in the Colonies has the air of an exotic. It does not appear to have so taken root as to be in a condition to grow without extraneous aid.

Is not the very title "Church of Scotland" a misnomer? And does not the habitual use of this title operate to mislead? The statement may stagger some of our readers; nevertheless, it is the simple fact that, save in so far as the liberality of the mother church forms a bond, the connection between her and the so-called Church of Scotland in the Colonies is vastly more shadowy than